Historical Romance

HARLEQUIN

Prisoner of the Tower

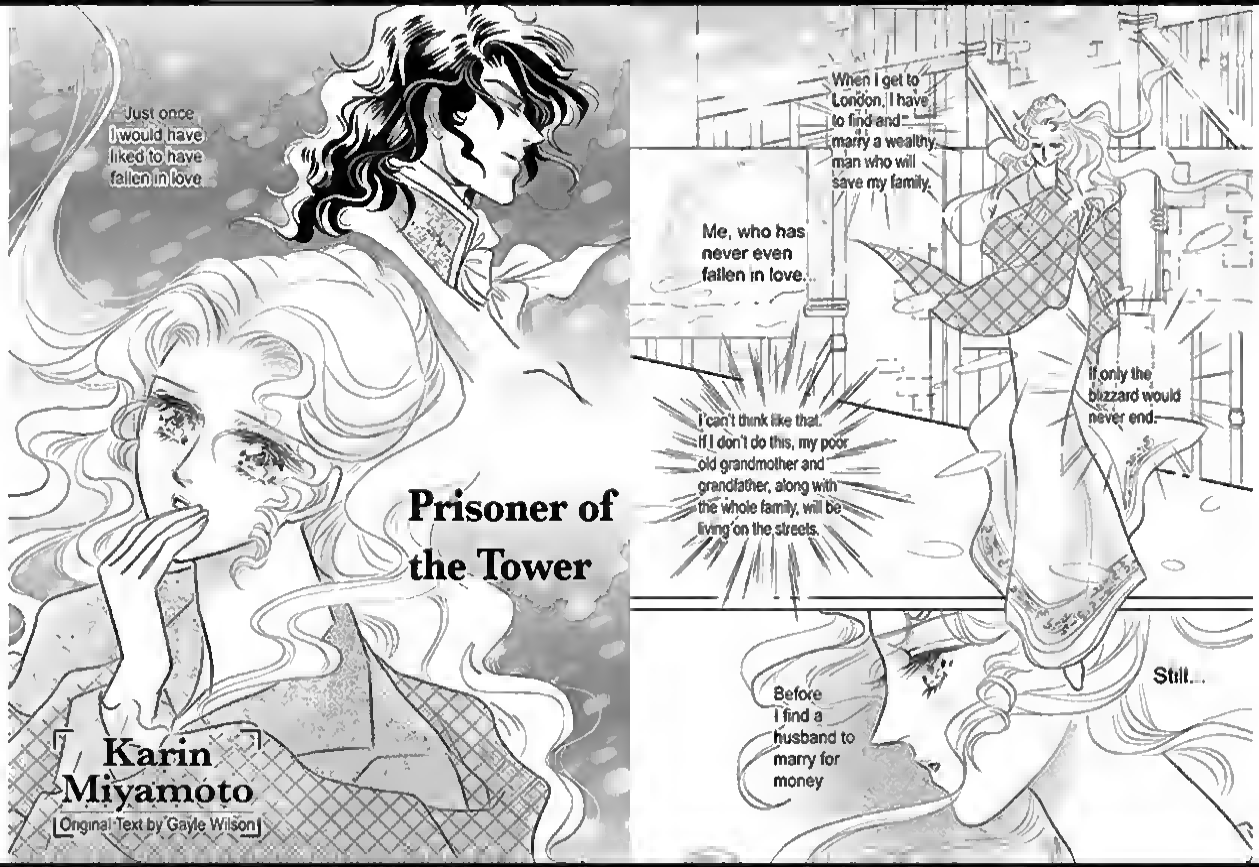
Original Text by Gayle Wilson

Karin Miyamoto

Outskirts of London.
Howl
It's so cold!
Unbelievable!
Shiver shiver
This blizzard will pass soon, and we'll be in London by tomorrow.
London is within arm's reach, and we're stuck in this lodge.
It's all right, Auntie.
*Window rattling

Slip
Howl
Zzzz
Yes...
Auntie.
I'm so sorry, Emma. But you're our last hope.
My name is Emma Thurman. On my way to London to find a wealthy husband to save my family from bankruptcy, I was trapped in a lodge by a blizzard
Creak
Tomorrow, I'll be in London...

Still, you mustn't be too hasty, Emma.
We have to find you a husband as quickly as possible, Emma.
Oh
I certainly hope so.
If only your brother hadn't led us into bankruptcy, we wouldn't be in this predicament.
The fate of the Thurman family depends on you finding the wealthiest husband you can.
I know, Auntie.
...Yes.


Just once I would have liked to have fallen in love
Prisoner of the Tower
Karin Miyamoto
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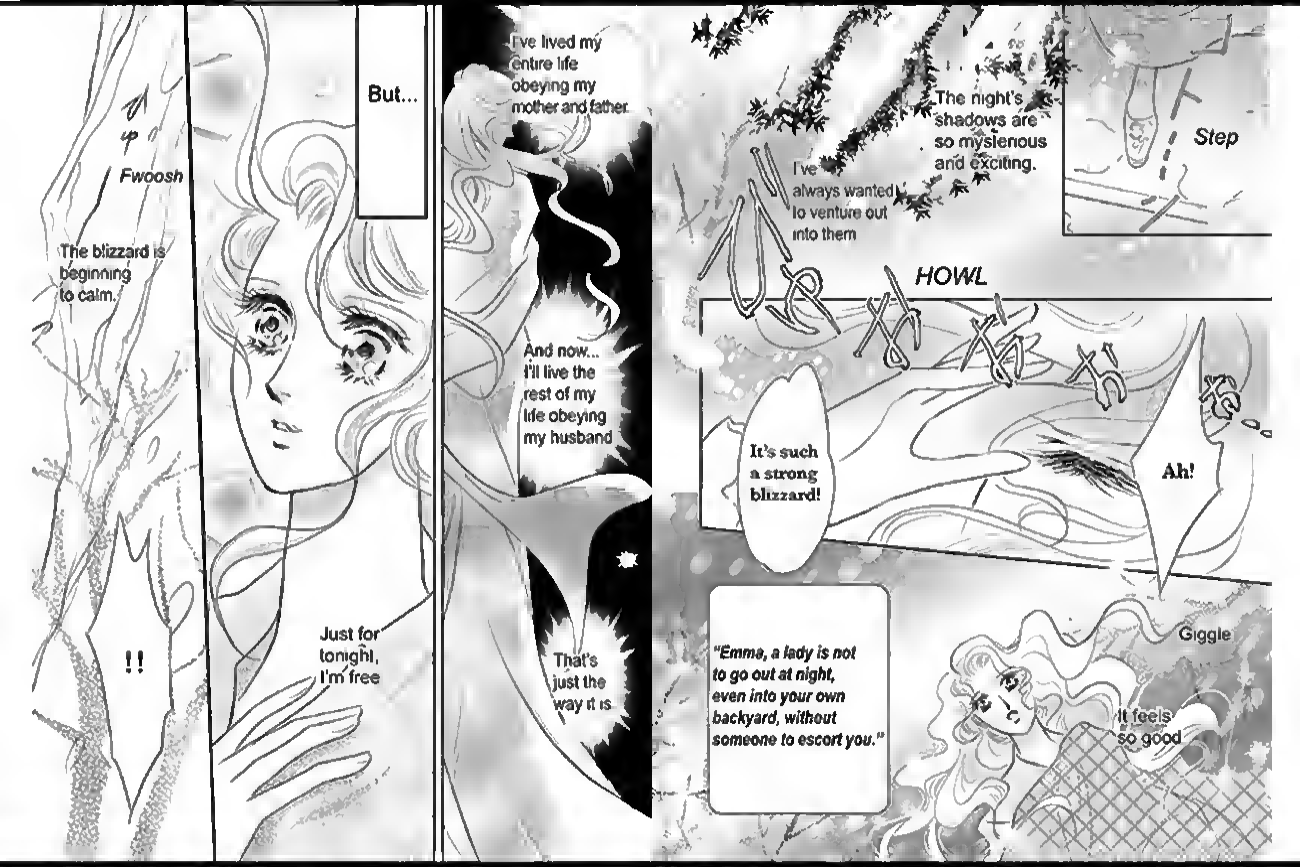
When I get to London, I have to find and marry a wealthy man who will save my family.
Me, who has never even fallen in love...
If only the blizzard would never end.
I can't think like that. If I don't do this, my poor old grandmother and grandfather, along with the whole family, will be living on the streets.
Still...
Before I find a husband to marry for money


But...
Fwoosh
The blizzard is beginning to calm.
!!
Just for tonight, I'm free
I've lived my entire life obeying my mother and father.
And now... I'll live the rest of my life obeying my husband
That's just the way it is
The night's shadows are so mysterious and exciting.
I've always wanted to venture out into them
Step
HOWL
It's such a strong blizzard!
Ah!
"Emma, a lady is not to go out at night, even into your own backyard, without someone to escort you."
Giggle
It feels so good

Oh!
The stars are so beautiful!
How romantic this would be if someone I loved were here with me!
Love...
Creak
Well, it's pointless to be pessimistic about the situation.
Maybe I'll fall in love with someone wonderful in London, and he'll be rich enough to save the Thurman family
No... That would be too good to be true...
Even if I can't fall in love, I can still love
That's it!
I just have to build a loving family!

Rustle
...But I'm too scared to move! What am I going to do?
What's this?
I'm surprised anyone but me would want to be outside at night during a blizzard.
W-Who are you?
Don't be afraid, Miss.
I swear to God that I mean you no harm.
Y-You..

After all, when I look up at these beautiful stars I feel as if I'll find happiness.
Rustle
Who would be out at night in this blizzard?
A thief?
I have to run!

If you just...
...hold out your hand.
It almost feels like you're one of the stars.
.....
Whew. He doesn't seem to be a bad person.
I am just another traveler caught by the storm.
The blizzard has passed, and the stars are beautiful.
Aren't they?
I've never seen a night sky this beautiful!
It's as if the stars might come falling down.

Smirk
I imagine your luggage must be full of dresses and hope.
You're bound for London?
Yes. I'm going as a debutante to London's court society.
There's nothing to worry about. An attractive woman like you won't end up a wallflower.
I'm sure you'll find a wonderful romance.
...Yes, but...
...I think I'm more worried than hopeful.
Romance
Rustle
It's thanks to the storm blowing away the filthy London air.
Jolt
Oh my!
Oh, you live in London?
It's where my home is.
Thump
He's so handsome!
So you're returning from a trip?
No. I was just about to leave for Spain.
Thump
Thump

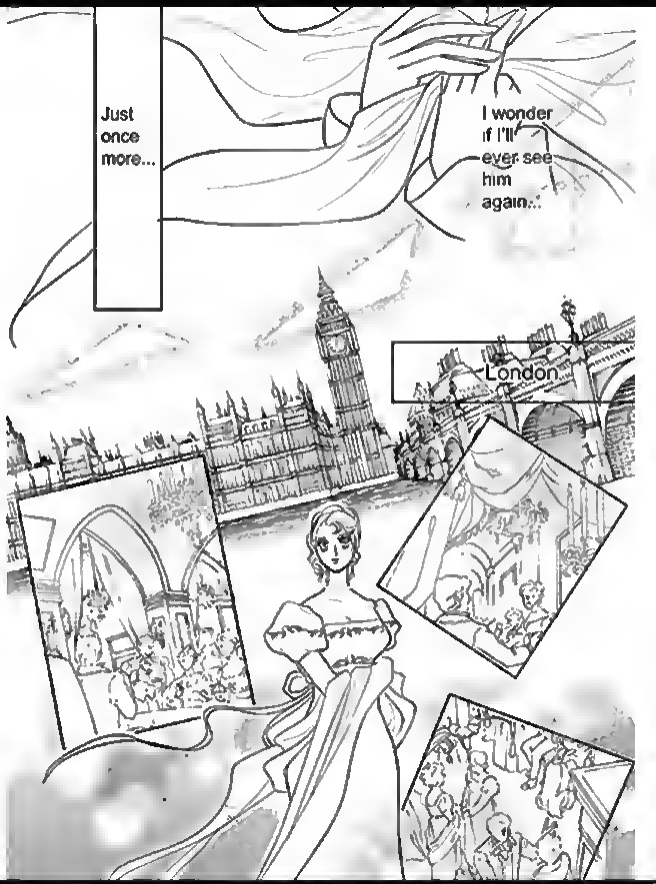
In that case, I apologize for intruding on your special evening.
That's why tonight is special for me.
No! No, that's just a silly dream...
No! It's just the opposite!
Y-yes..
Thump
Thump
Thump
The opposite...
If I were to fall in love...
Jolt
But... If..
Unfortunately, that isn't the most important condition about the man I marry.
No!
I'm not free to fall in love!
What?
I... have to choose a husband based on his wealth...

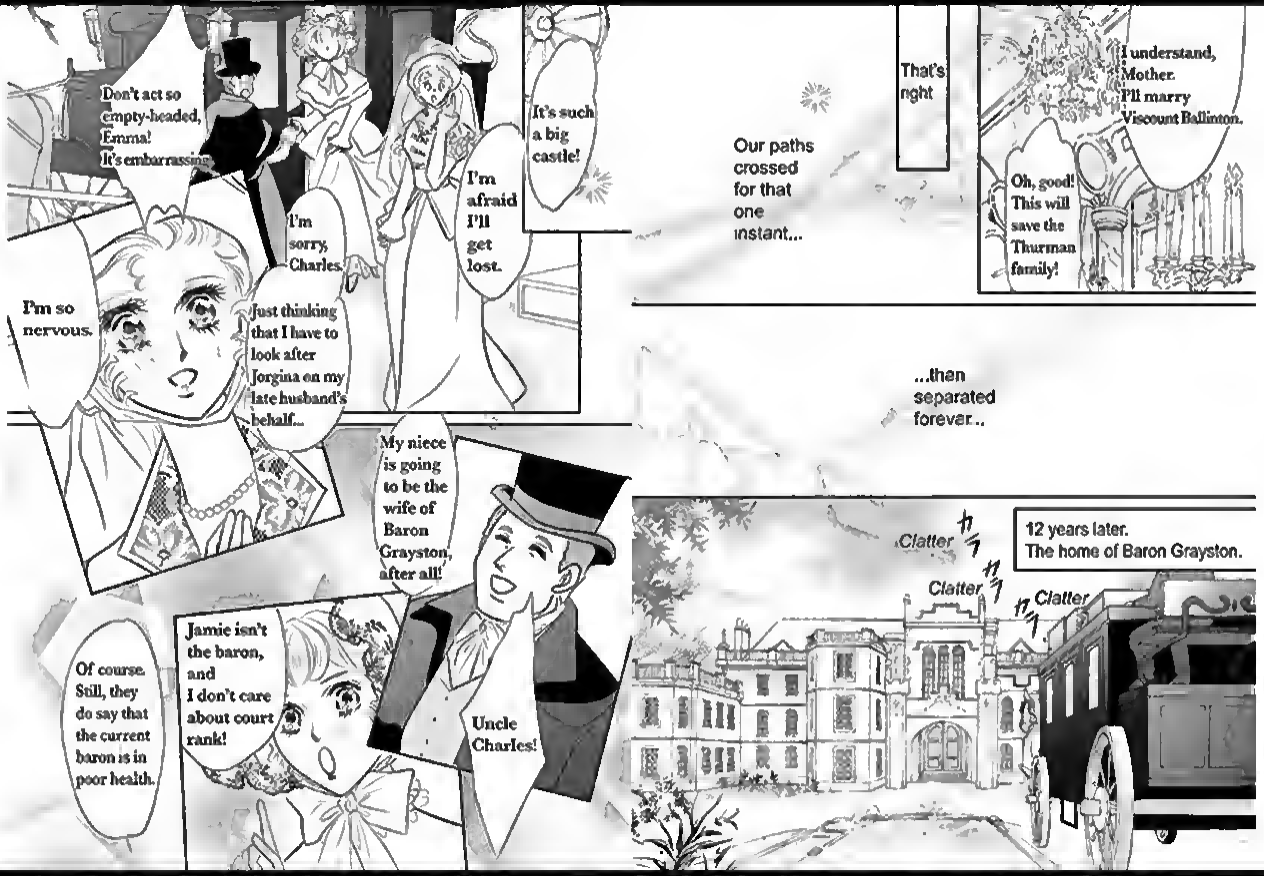
What a wonderful kiss.
THUMP
THUMP
I feel like I'm going to faint...
THUMP
Achoo!
...For the first time in my life, I wish I were.
Um, are you also going to London?
What's your name?
E-Emma...
ZAP
Emma.

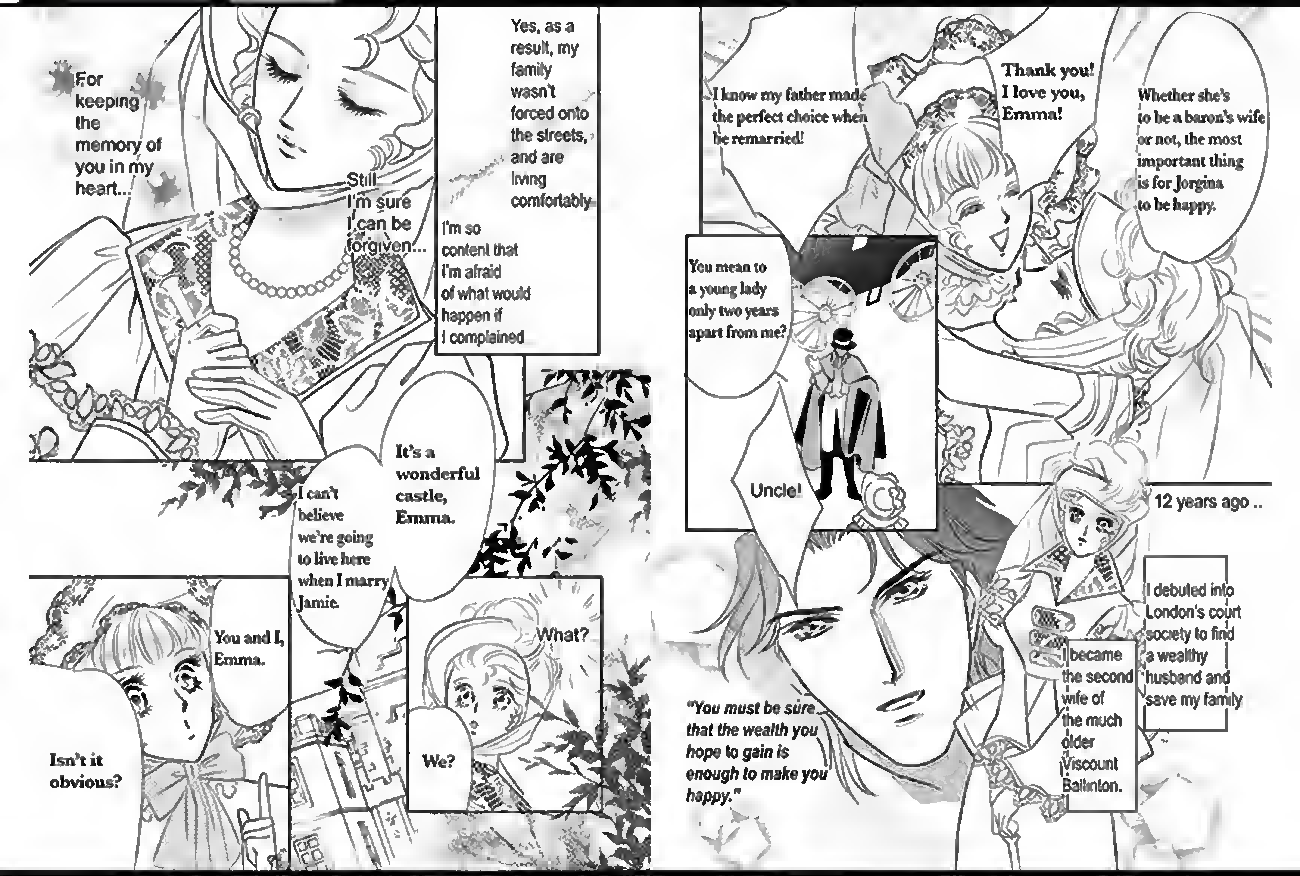
Kiss
...If only...
Oh...
He's gone...
I never even asked his name...
!!
Jump
ドキッ
It would be a shame if such a beauty caught a cold.
Thank you!
Thump
Ah!
I've ruined the romantic mood..
Swish
Well, I supposed you aren't exactly dressed to be out on a winter night.
It's warm
Thump Thump
His cravat...
O-Of course.
Emma.
You must be sure that the wealth you hope to gain is enough to make you happy.

He really must not be in London.

Viscount Ballinton said he'd be willing to help right away if you marry him. You should accept!
The debt collectors are insistent, and if we don't pay them by the end of the month, they'll take our mansion!
Stop wasting time, Emma!
Do you want to see the Thurman family living on the streets?
Of course not!




Don't act so empty-headed, Emma! It's embarrassing.
I'm sorry, Charles.
I'm afraid I'll get lost.
It's such a big castle!
I'm so nervous.
Just thinking that I have to look after Jorgina on my late husband's behalf...
My niece is going to be the wife of Baron Grayston, after all!
Jamie isn't the baron, and I don't care about court rank!
Uncle Charles!
Of course. Still, they do say that the current baron is in poor health.
Our paths crossed for that one instant...
That's right
I understand, Mother. I'll marry Viscount Ballinton.
Oh, good! This will save the Thurman family!
...then separated forever..
12 years later. The home of Baron Grayston.
Clatter
Clatter
Clatter

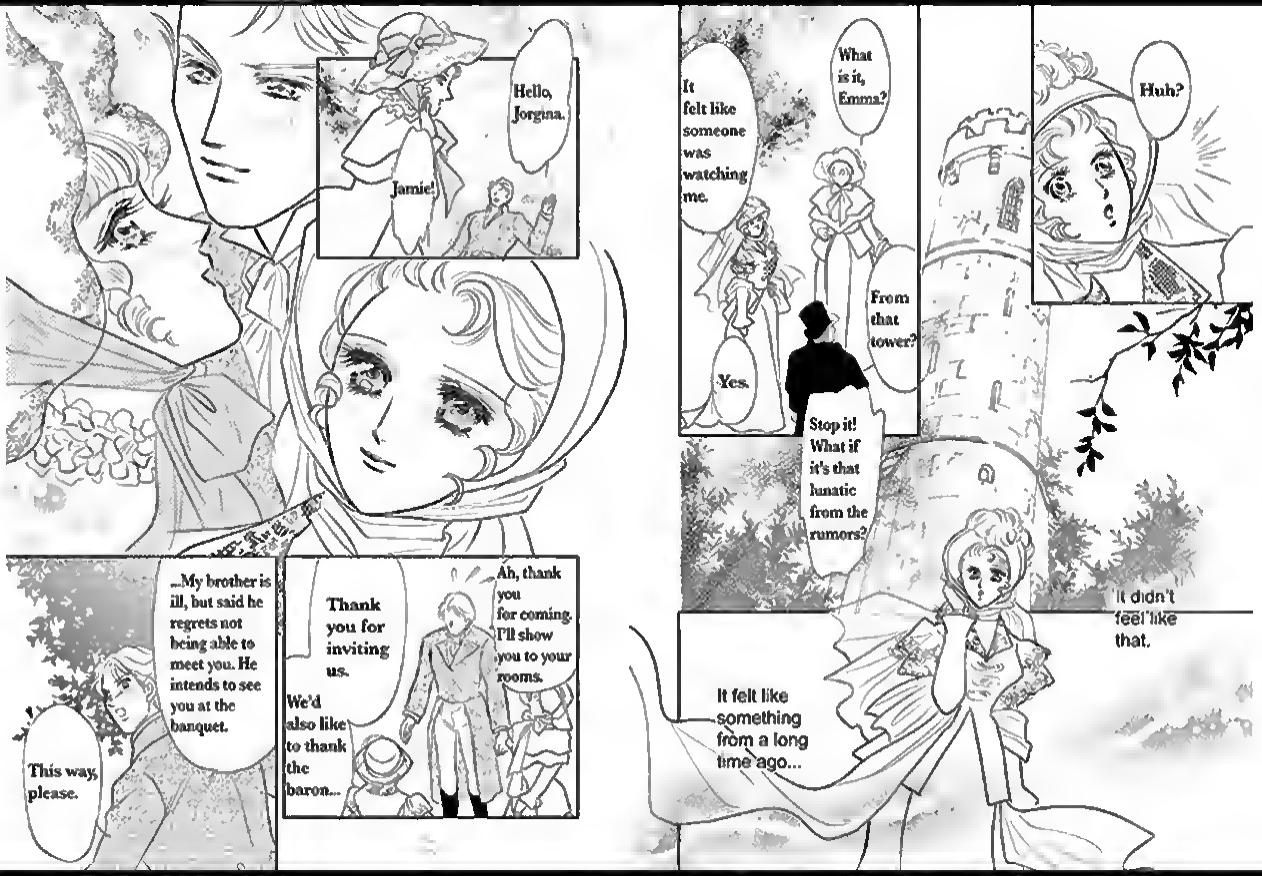

For keeping the memory of you in my heart...
Still I'm sure I can be forgiven...
Yes, as a result, my family wasn't forced onto the streets, and are living comfortably
I'm so content that I'm afraid of what would happen if I complained
I can't believe we're going to live here when I marry Jamie.
It's a wonderful castle, Emma.
You and I, Emma.
Isn't it obvious?
What?
We?
"You must be sure that the wealth you hope to gain is enough to make you happy."
I became the second wife of the much older Viscount Ballinton.
I debuted into London's court society to find a wealthy husband and save my family
12 years ago ..
Uncle!
You mean to a young lady only two years apart from me?
I know my father made the perfect choice when he remarried!
Thank you! I love you, Emma!
Whether she's to be a baron's wife or not, the most important thing is for Jorgina to be happy.

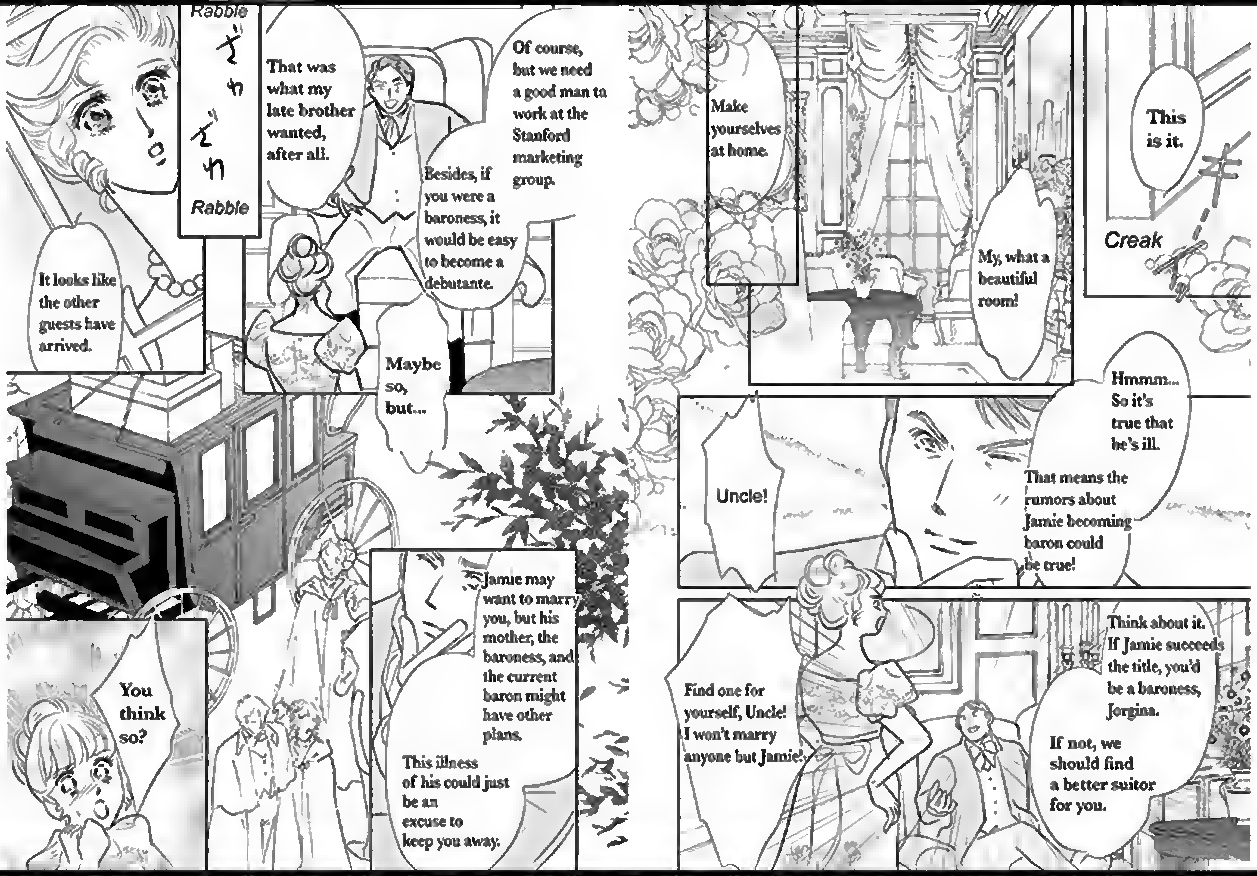
Her small body clung to me, and she became my world.
Hug
Thanks to Lord Robert Stanford Ballinton, I didn't have to worry about my family's troubles anymore.
My marriage may not have had much romance, so I lived to raise Jorgina.
Now that he's gone, my role ends as soon as I see Jorgina happily married.
I can work as a tutor to support myself.
Yes... In that place of memories...
...Then, I'll be able to live for myself...
You can't! I know you won't abandon me, will you? You'll come live with me, won't you?
Jorgina...
It's far too nice for me.
Once I see that you're getting along, I'm going back to the old Thurman estate.
With her mother gone, and her father busy with work, little Jorgina was being raised by her maids and tutors.
A little girl, frightened of her cold, strict environment.
You were just six years old when I first met you.
Robert had lost his wife, and remarried for the sake of his young daughter
My name is Emma.
Can I be your friend?

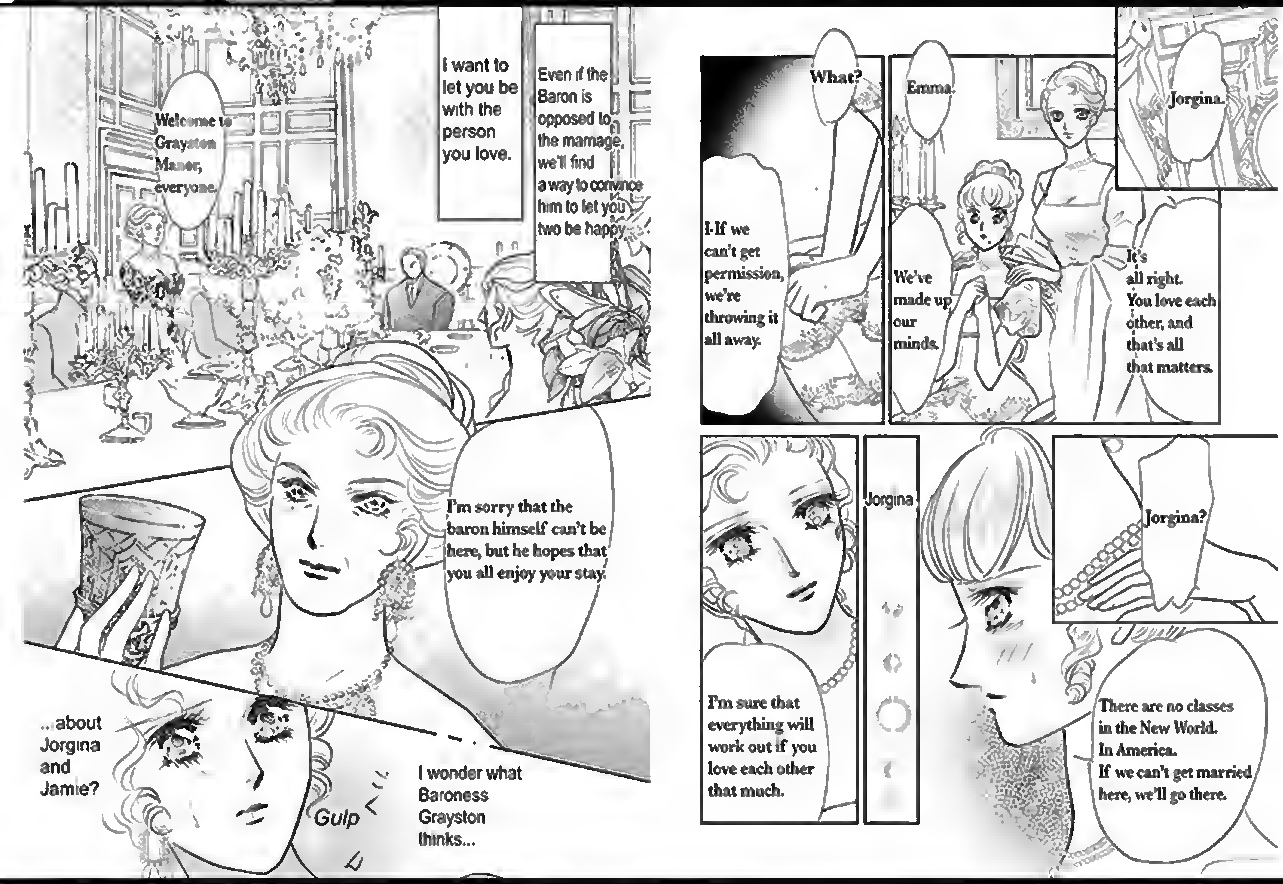
I do agree, Jamie.
I'm sure you've chosen well.
Jorgina is a very nice girl, and would be a fitting wife for me.
Why can't you agree?
You still refuse to meet Jorgina, Brother?
They say there's a lunatic imprisoned in the tower of Baron Grayston's castle. Even the servants are forbidden to go near it.
What still bothers me is that rumor going around.
That tower looks like it could hold someone.
It's a common legend with old castles, and Jamie is an upstanding young man.
I guess.
I'd hate to scare off your pretty young fiancée.
The reason I don't want to see anyone is the same as always.

Fine.
I hope to at least see you at the banquet.
Click
Your guests are here. Don't you have to go greet them?
Fine.
Tell them that I'm sick and bedridden, but I regret not being able to meet them.
But...
Her mother and uncle seem to think that the wife of the future baron Grayston should be from a higher family.
I'm not going to become Baron, so it doesn't matter if Jorgina is the daughter of a viscount.
Right.
She isn't my fiancée yet.
That's why I want the blessing of my only brother, not to mention I'm sure that Jorgina's family wants to meet you.
More importantly, I love Jorgina.
Brother!
It's a shame that I'm in Paris, then.

It... couldn't... be...
"I have to choose a husband based on his wealth..."
Swish
You made a good choice...
Oh, you have dust on you.
So... That's her husband...
Ha seems rich
A girl raised in a wealthy family is sure to be a good wife for Jamia
They seem like a good couple.
Oh, it is?
Charles! Your cravat is crooked.
Thanks.
There you are.
!!
Wait... The wife... It's hard to tell from this distance, but I feel that I know her from somewhere...


Hello, Jorgina.
Jamie!
...My brother is ill, but said he regrets not being able to meet you. He intends to see you at the banquet.
This way, please.
Thank you for inviting us.
We'd also like to thank the baron...
Ah, thank you for coming. I'll show you to your rooms.
It felt like someone was watching me.
What is it, Emma?
Yes.
From that tower?
Stop it! What if it's that lunatic from the rumors?
Huh?
It didn't feel like that.
It felt like something from a long time ago...

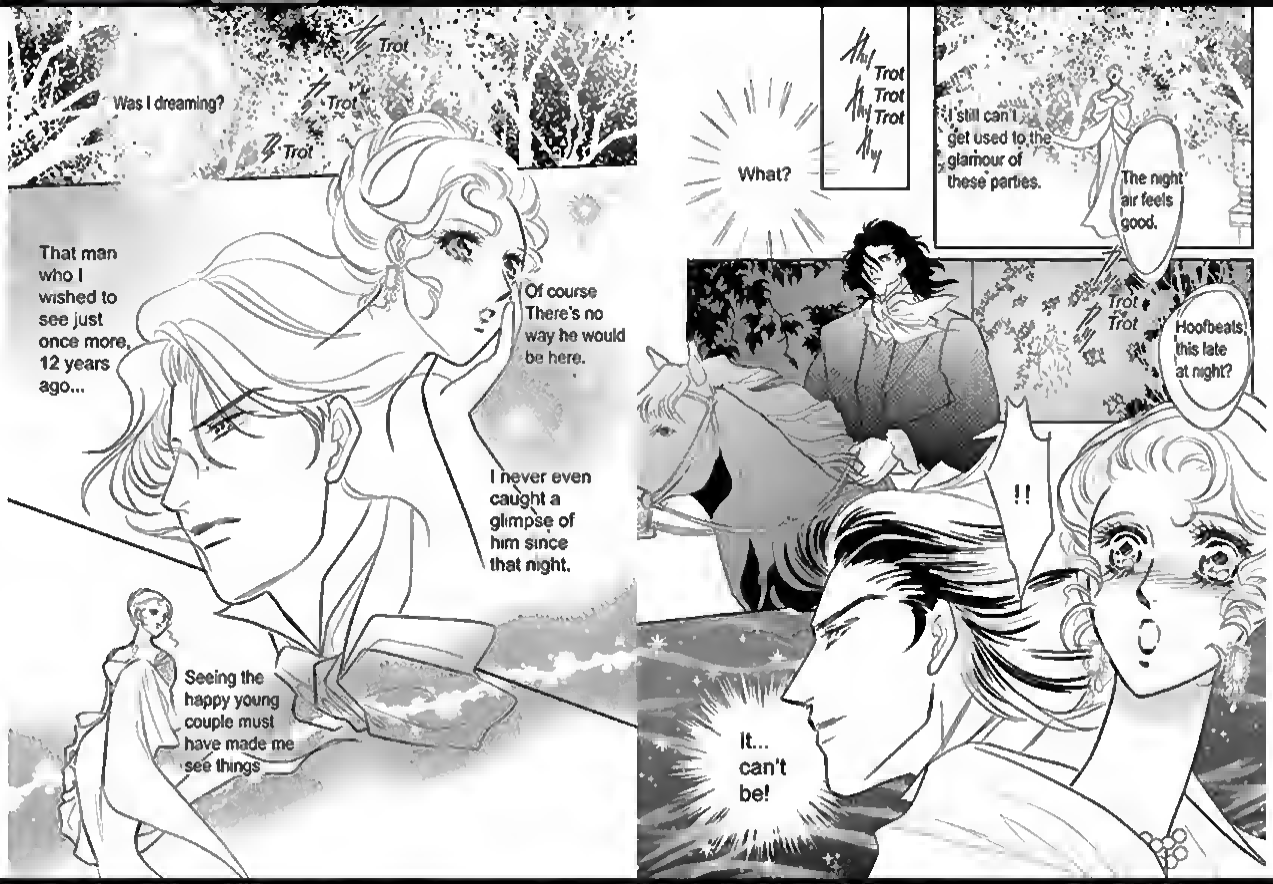

Rabble
ざわざわ
Rabble
It looks like the other guests have arrived.
That was what my late brother wanted, after all.
Of course, but we need a good man to work at the Stanford marketing group.
Besides, if you were a baroness, it would be easy to become a debutante.
Maybe so, but...
You think so?
Jamie may want to marry you, but his mother, the baroness, and the current baron might have other plans.
This illness of his could just be an excuse to keep you away.
Make yourselves at home.
My, what a beautiful room!
This is it.
Creak
Uncle!
Hmmm... So it's true that he's ill.
That means the rumors about Jamie becoming baron could be true!
Find one for yourself, Uncle! I won't marry anyone but Jamie!
Think about it. If Jamie succeeds the title, you'd be a baroness, Jorgina.
If not, we should find a better suitor for you.


Welcome to Grayston Manor, everyone.
I want to let you be with the person you love.
Even if the Baron is opposed to the mamage, we'll find a way to convince him to let you two be happy.
I'm sorry that the baron himself can't be here, but he hopes that you all enjoy your stay.
...about Jorgina and Jamie?
Gulp
I wonder what Baroness Grayston thinks...
What?
I-If we can't get permission, we're throwing it all away.
Emma.
We've made up our minds.
Jorgina.
It's all right. You love each other, and that's all that matters.
Jorgina
I'm sure that everything will work out if you love each other that much.
Jorgina?
There are no classes in the New World. In America. If we can't get married here, we'll go there.

Look, Jamie is worried about you. Smile for him.
Yes, we were also surprised, but couldn't turn down such a polite invitation. We are honored to be here.
Mother! Jamie is looking this way!
Emma...
Well, the Grayston family even have friends who are royalty. His wife would have to be at least of your breeding, darling.
Don't worry, Jorgina. Chin up.
He's coming this way!
Tap
Tap
Tap
Swish
Uh...
Oh, Emma... They're all wives and daughters of high nobility!
Well, if it isn't Lady Ballinton.
It's all right, Jorgina.
What if it's as Uncle Charles said...
Snicker
I didn't expect to find a viscount's family among the assembled nobles here at Grayston Manor.
Blush
Hmph
...and the baron and baroness don't think I'm good enough to marry Jamie?

Good
I must be tired. I'll go clear my head.
Emma, you don't look so good.
Jamie can handle the rest.
Jamie.
With pleasure.
May I have this dance, Jorgina?
Grant me the honor of dancing the waltz with you.
Rabble
Rabble
Grr

This is ridiculous. What's wrong with me?
Trot
The young girl who has coming to London to practically sell herself has found happiness. That should be enough for me
Yet it still bothers me.
Why does her husband's smile make me feel this bitter?
The saloon is noisy. Seems that they're enjoying themselves.
Whinny
Sorry, Sultan. I can't sleep, so let's go for a ride.

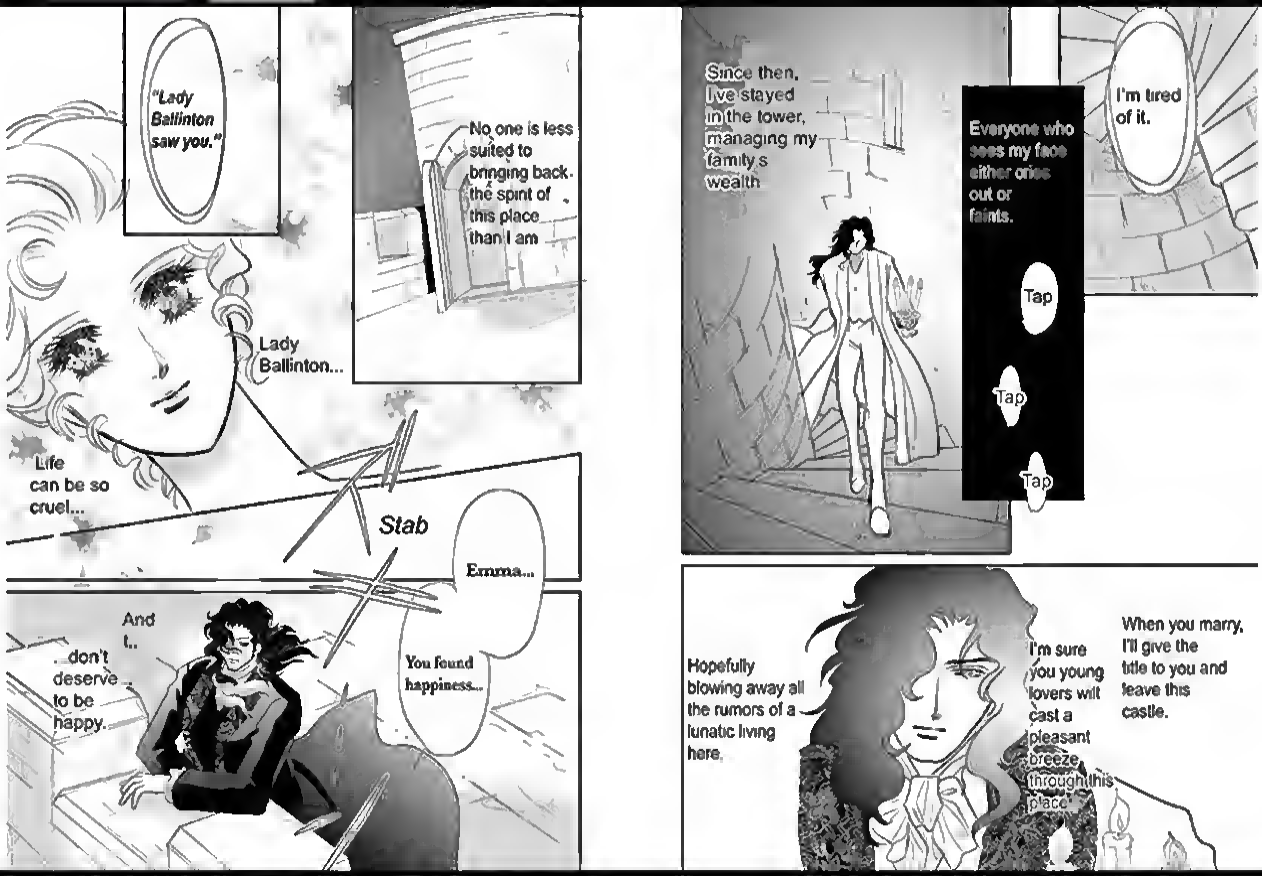

Trot
Was I dreaming?
Trot
Trot
That man who I wished to see just once more, 12 years ago...
Of course There's no way he would be here.
I never even caught a glimpse of him since that night.
Seeing the happy young couple must have made me see things
What?
Trot
Trot
Trot
I still can't get used to the glamour of these parties.
The night air feels good.
Trot
Trot
Hoofbeats, this late at night?
!!
It... can't be!

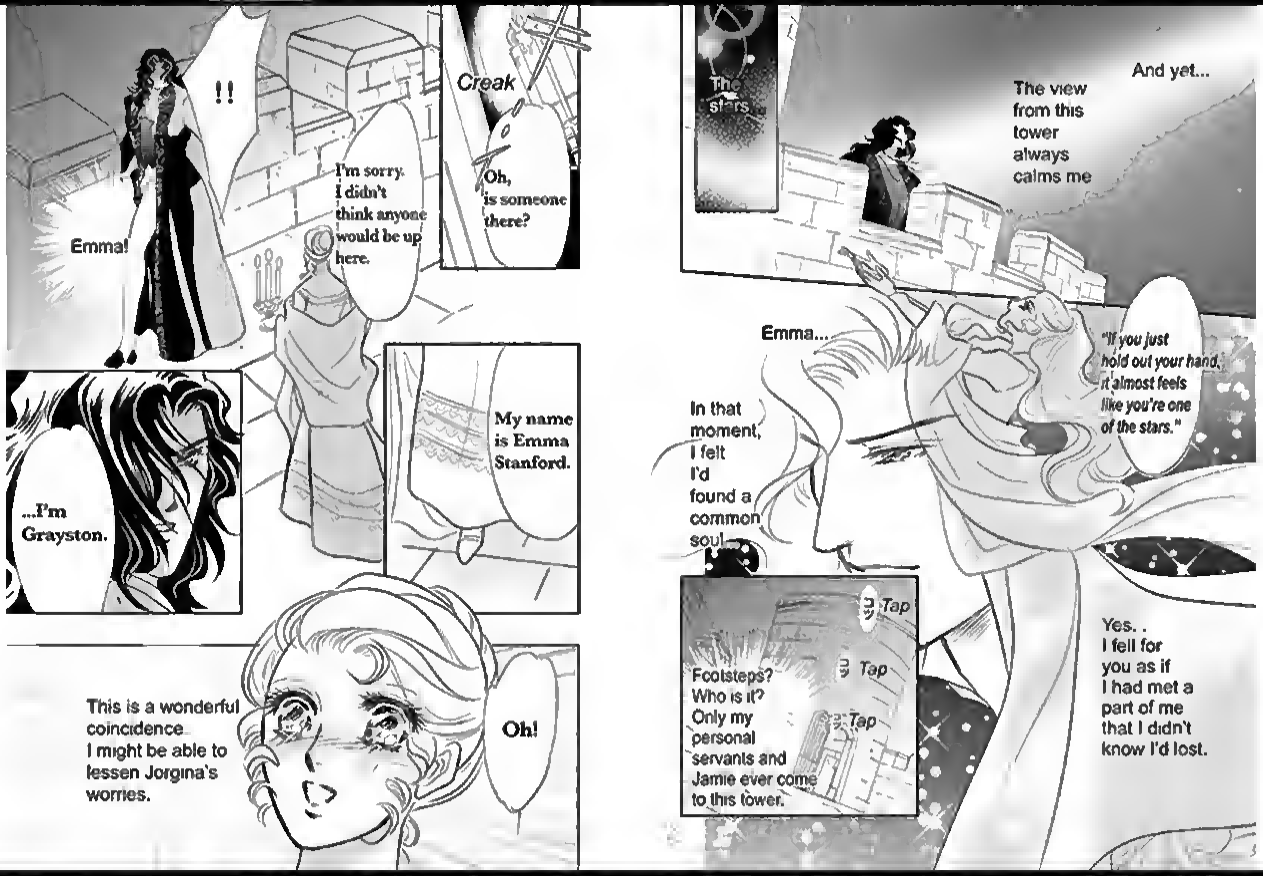
His name is Sultan? He's a beautiful horse.
O-Of course. You've seen Sultan before?
Whinny
I saw someone riding him last night when I was walking in the garden.
Really? He didn't look like a stable hand.
I suppose a stable hand could have taken him for a walk.
He was a great rider, and it was such a beautiful horse, I thought it was a dream.
*flinch
Er...
I see...
Uh... Well, that's... I...
My brother would never agree to that.
He really was a spectacular rider. I wonder if I could learn from him sometime?

But it was a dream that I was happy to see.
You're in a good mood, Emma. I've never seen you look so happy.
The weather is so nice today.
But even today, he's escorting us through his garden.
Emma! We don't know for sure yet!
!!
W-Well!
Can I get closer?
!!
Oh, it's the horse from last night!
Whinny
I'm just relieved because it looks as if it will work out for you two.

Oh, the tower.
I thought I saw Jamie come out of that tower yesterday.
The castle is wonderful, but the gardens are really spectacular.
Yes, it's a point of pride for Grayston manor.
Doesn't anyone live in that old tower anymore?
Why would you think that?
Stab
The servants use it for storage, I think.
Now, let me show you the southern garden.
The stairs aren't covered in moss.
That means someone has been using them all year round.
.....
The flowers are beautiful right now.
Now, let me show you another part of the garden.
Whew.
He's right. I can introduce you to a good teacher.
Oh, well.
Goodbye, Sultan.
You can't make friends with a stable hand! I won't allow it!
Absolutely not!
I just want to learn to ride, Charles.
Whinny
No! Don't get too close!
My, what a good boy!
This is a surprise. Sultan is never this calm for anyone but my brother

Fine.
Just remember this, Brother. Without your blessing, I won't marry Jorgina or anyone else.
Slam
But...
It's about time for your banquet. Your guests and Jorgina are waiting for you.
Jamie...
GASP!
EEEEE WAAAAAAH!
But...
I know you mean well...
Lady Ballinton saw you riding Sultan last night!
What?
!!
If you're going to act sick, try not to be seen by our guests, Brother!
.....
...I would prefer it if you would just address everyone as Baron Grayston, rather than hide.
You should know that I can't do that.
Oh... I see. I'll stay in the tower at night, as well, for as long as the guests are here.


"Lady Ballinton saw you."
No one is less suited to bringing back the spirit of this place than I am
Lady Ballinton...
Life can be so cruel...
Stab
Emma...
You found happiness...
And I...
...don't deserve to be happy.
Since then, I've stayed in the tower, managing my family's wealth
Everyone who sees my face either cries out or faints.
Tap
Tap
Tap
I'm tired of it.
Hopefully blowing away all the rumors of a lunatic living here.
I'm sure you young lovers will cast a pleasant breeze through this place.
When you marry, I'll give the title to you and leave this castle.


!!
Emma!
I'm sorry. I didn't think anyone would be up here.
Creak
Oh, is someone there?
...I'm Grayston.
My name is Emma Stanford.
This is a wonderful coincidence. I might be able to lessen Jorgina's worries.
Oh!
The stars...
The view from this tower always calms me
And yet...
Emma...
"If you just hold out your hand, it almost feels like you're one of the stars."
In that moment, I felt I'd found a common soul.
Tap
Tap
Tap
Footsteps? Who is it? Only my personal servants and Jamie ever come to this tower.
Yes. . I fell for you as if I had met a part of me that I didn't know I'd lost.

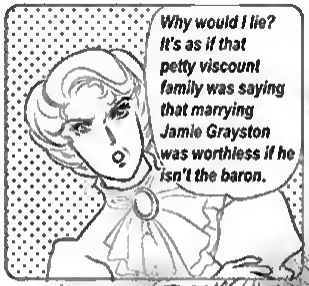
She really loves that girl.
The eyes of a mother with no concern for anything but her daughter...
It was so natural and full of love when she straightened her husband's cravat.
I wanted to know what you think of them, Baron.
What about them?
Ha...
...Ridiculous sentiment.
...But I had wanted to be the one to provide that happiness.
I had hoped for as much for her...
That fragile little girl has grown and reappeared before me as a wealthy lady of stature.
She must be happy.

Who would have thought Emma would come to this lower?
Thank you...
I see that you've recovered from your illness. Congratulations.
Turn
Step
You can have the place to yourself, then.
I've been wondering about the view since Jamie showed me the tower.
Is it all right if I join you?
What?
It's about my stepdaughter Jorgina and Jamie.
I actually wanted to have a word with you.
Oh, just a moment, Baron!

My husband?
My husband passed away.
It seems that's what your husband has in mind.
We didn't have any children, so my late husband's brother succeeded his title.
Oh, you mean Charles. He's my brother-in-law.
Didn't you arrive with Viscount Ballinton?

Her brother-in-law...

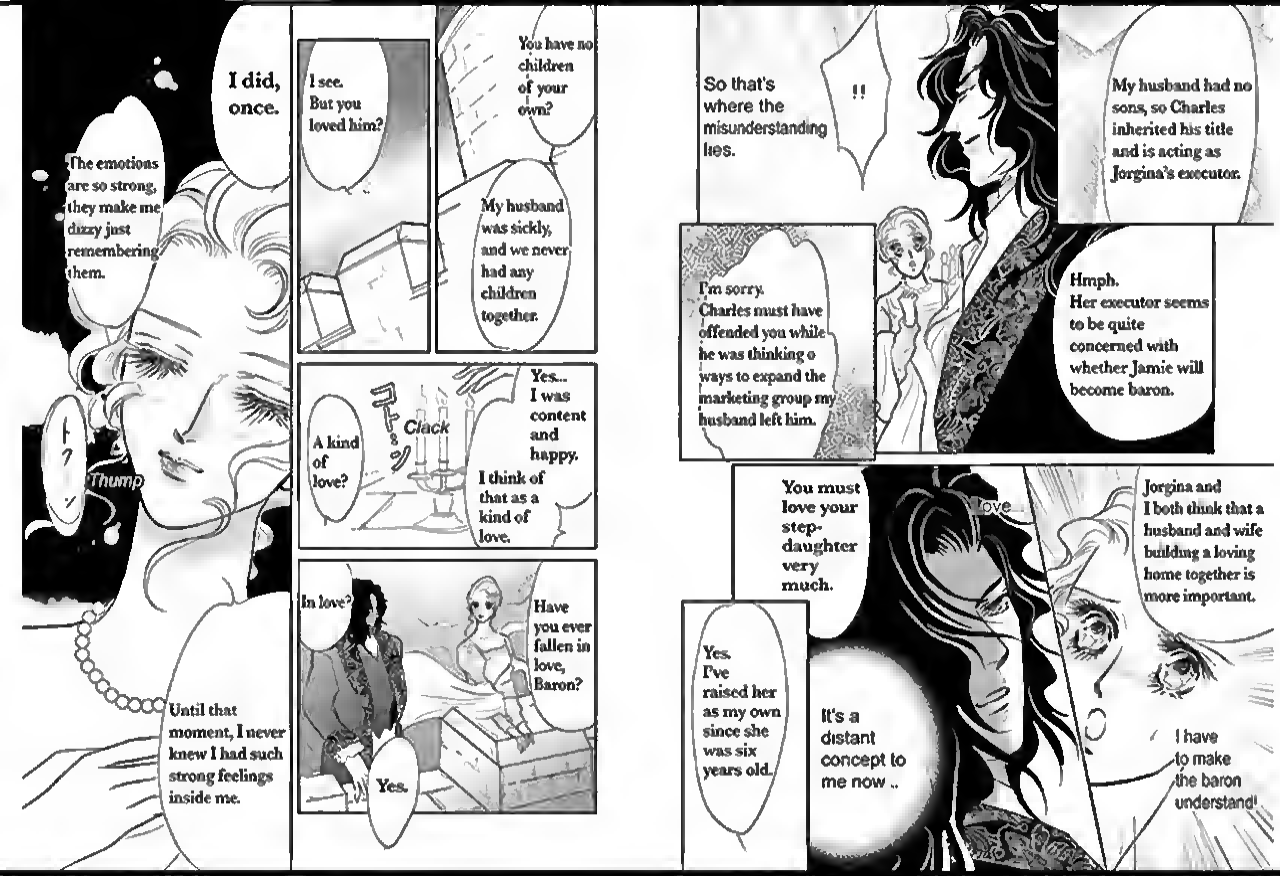
Her husband passed away...


Why would I lie? It's as if that petty viscount family was saying that marrying Jamie Grayston was worthless if he isn't the baron.

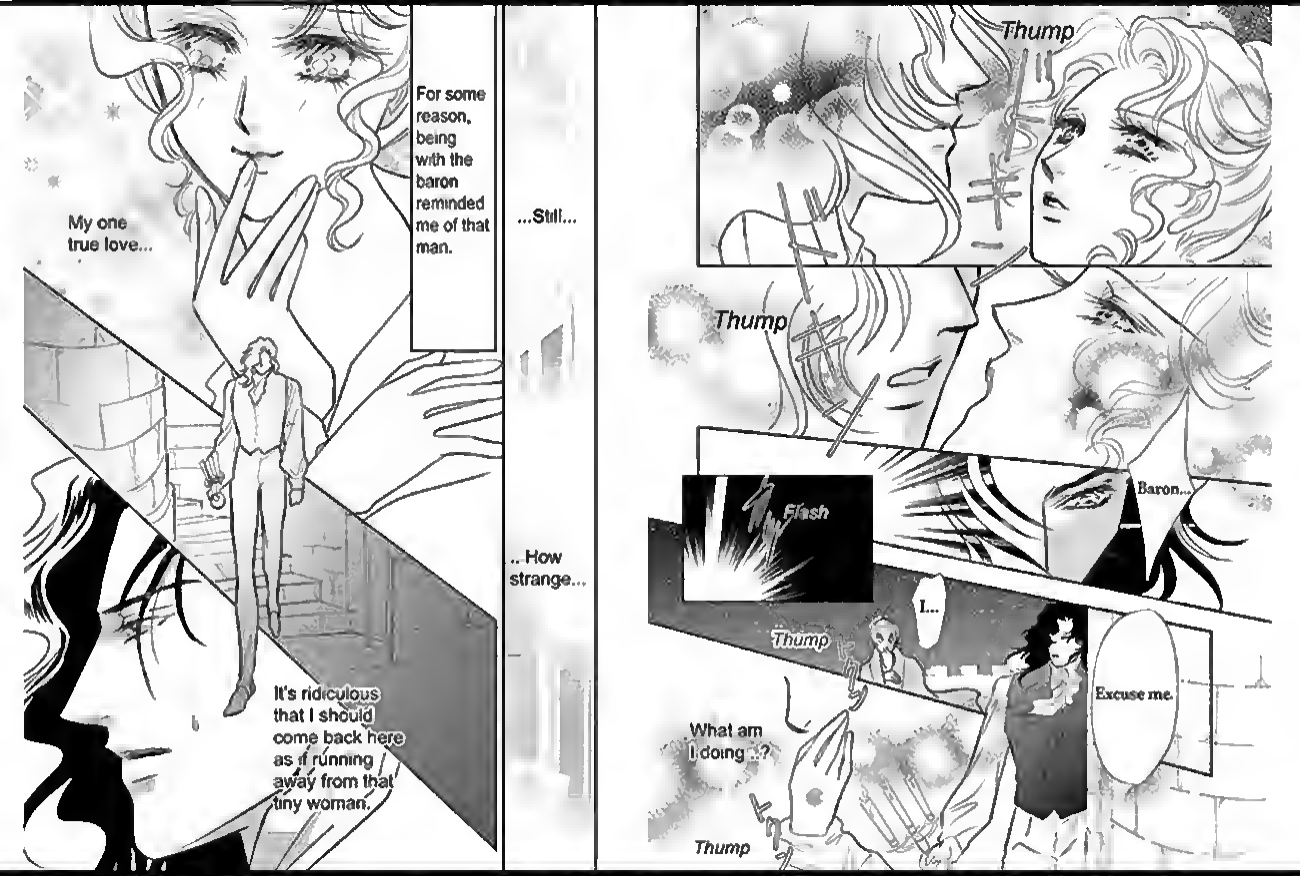
I'm against that Jorgina girl because her executors asked whether or not Jamie would gain the title if Baron Grayston's health fails.
Is that true, Mother?

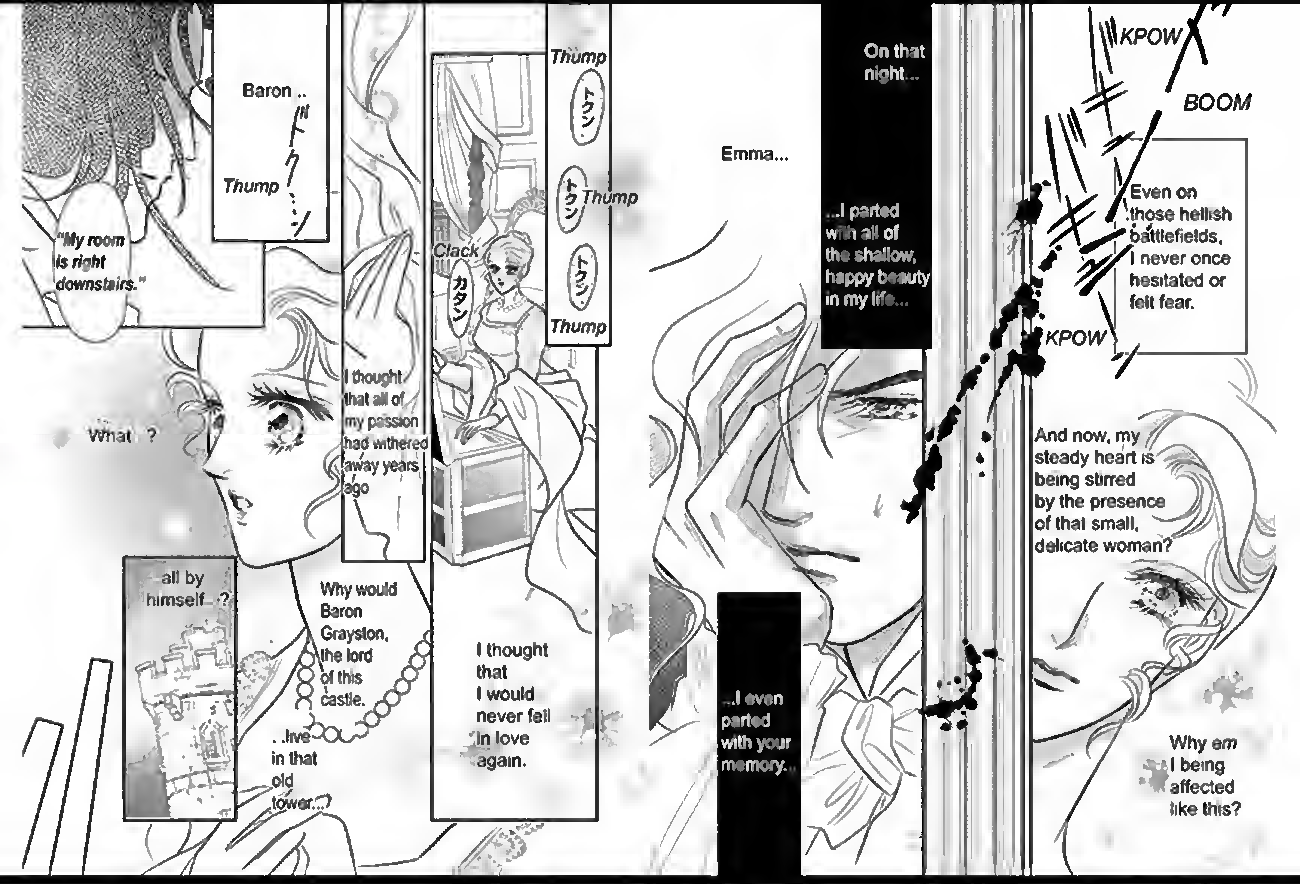
Now that Emma has wealth, she must want status, as well.

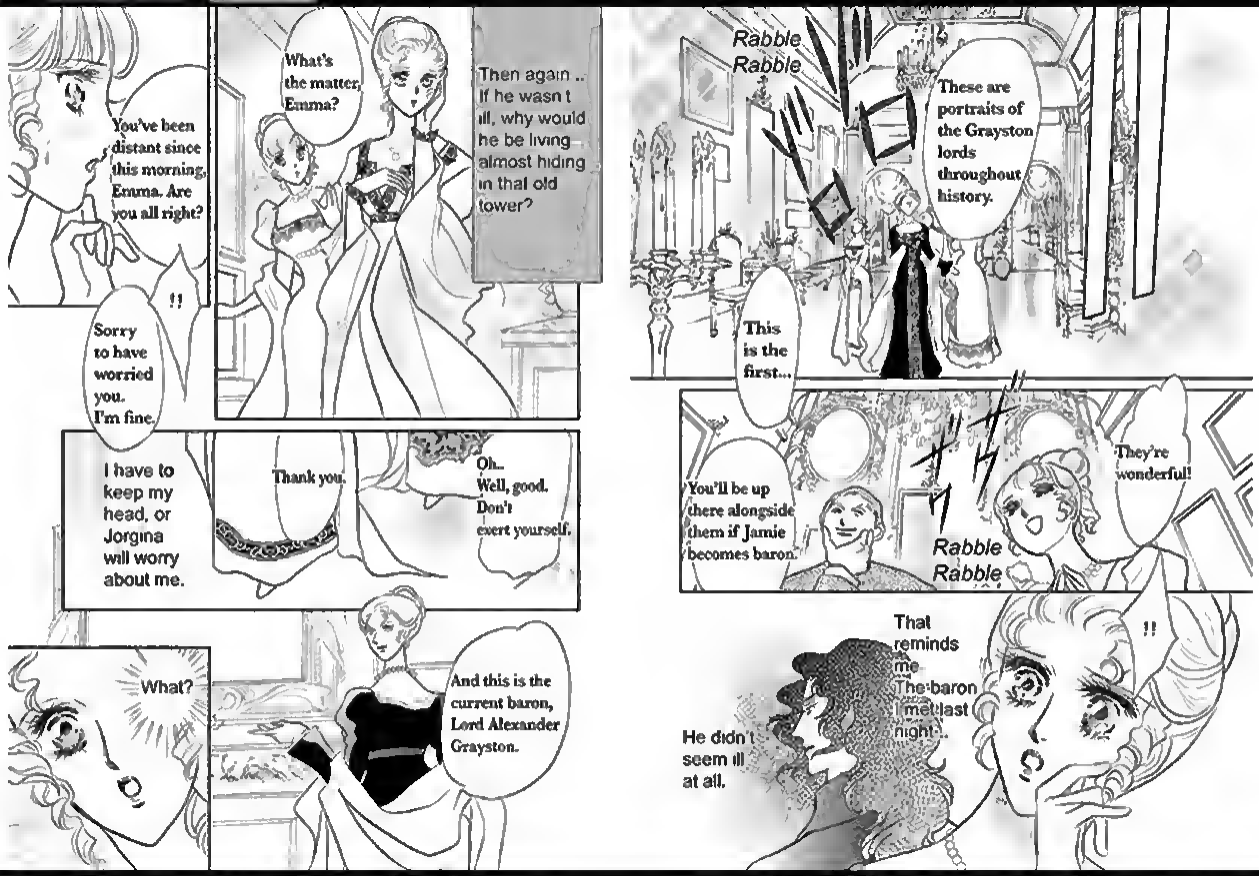
Hmph. You're worried whether Jamie will still succeed the title because I'm healthy?
Those two don't care whether Jamie becomes the baron or not.
What?

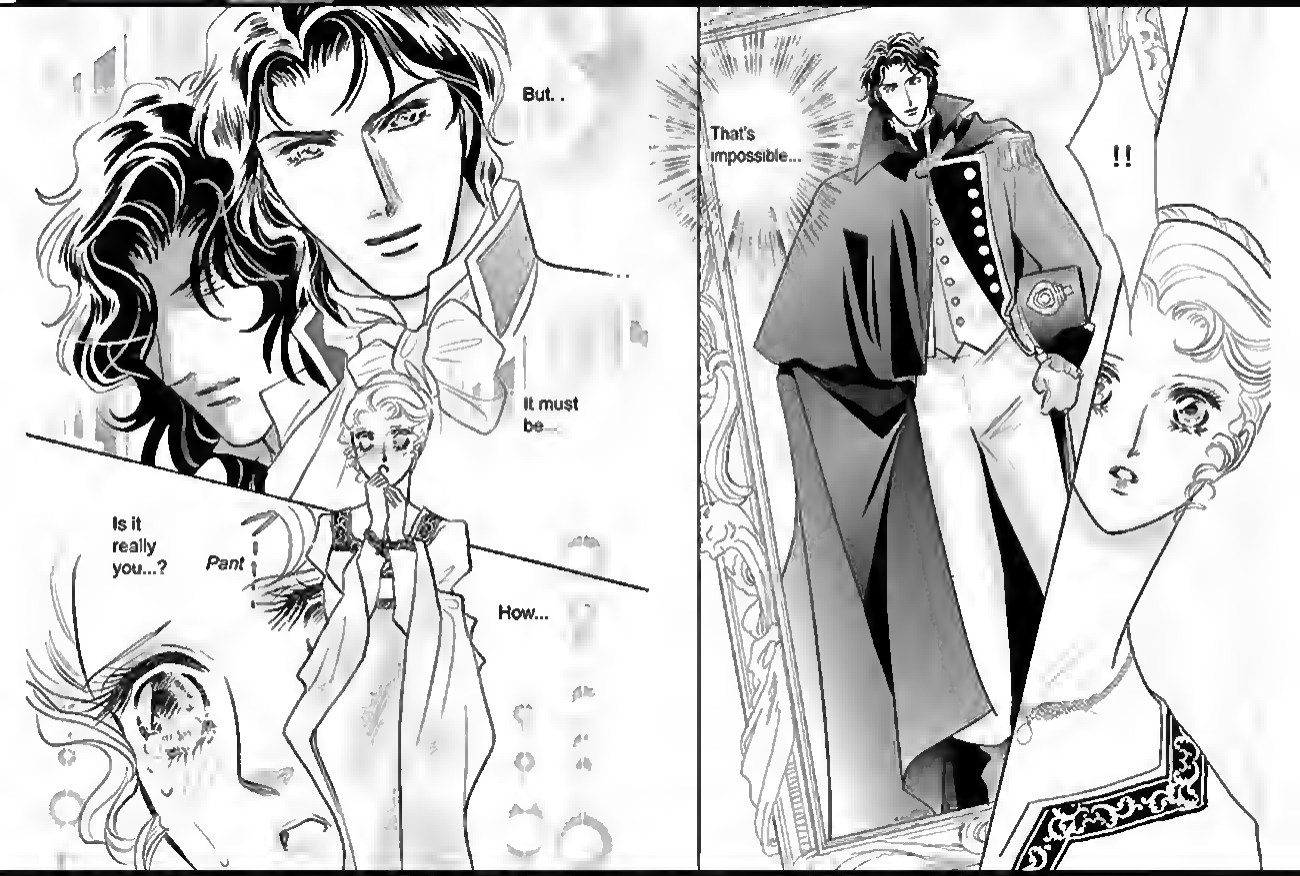

I did, once.
The emotions are so strong, they make me dizzy just remembering them.
Thump
Until that moment, I never knew I had such strong feelings inside me.
I see. But you loved him?
You have no children of your own?
My husband was sickly, and we never had any children together.
A kind of love?
Clack
Yes... I was content and happy. I think of that as a kind of love.
In love?
Have you ever fallen in love, Baron?
Yes.
So that's where the misunderstanding lies.
!!
My husband had no sons, so Charles inherited his title and is acting as Jorgina's executor.
I'm sorry. Charles must have offended you while he was thinking o ways to expand the marketing group my husband left him.
Hmph. Her executor seems to be quite concerned with whether Jamie will become baron.
You must love your step-daughter very much.
Yes. I've raised her as my own since she was six years old.
It's a distant concept to me now ..
Love
Jorgina and I both think that a husband and wife building a loving home together is more important.
I have to make the baron understand!

Wear this.
!!
Thank you.
Achoo!
O-Oh, excuse me.
I'll be fine. My room is right downstairs.
Thank you.
Swish
U-Um...
It's warm.
So you hadn't changed a bit in these 12 long years...
I'll keep that in mind.
That brief moment meant everything to me.
In a single evening, we met, kissed, and parted ways.
You may think it foolish, but that was all, and I never saw him again.
Emma...
Her eyes are so earnest.
I never fully experienced that love.
That's why I want those two young lovers to be happy, with all my heart.

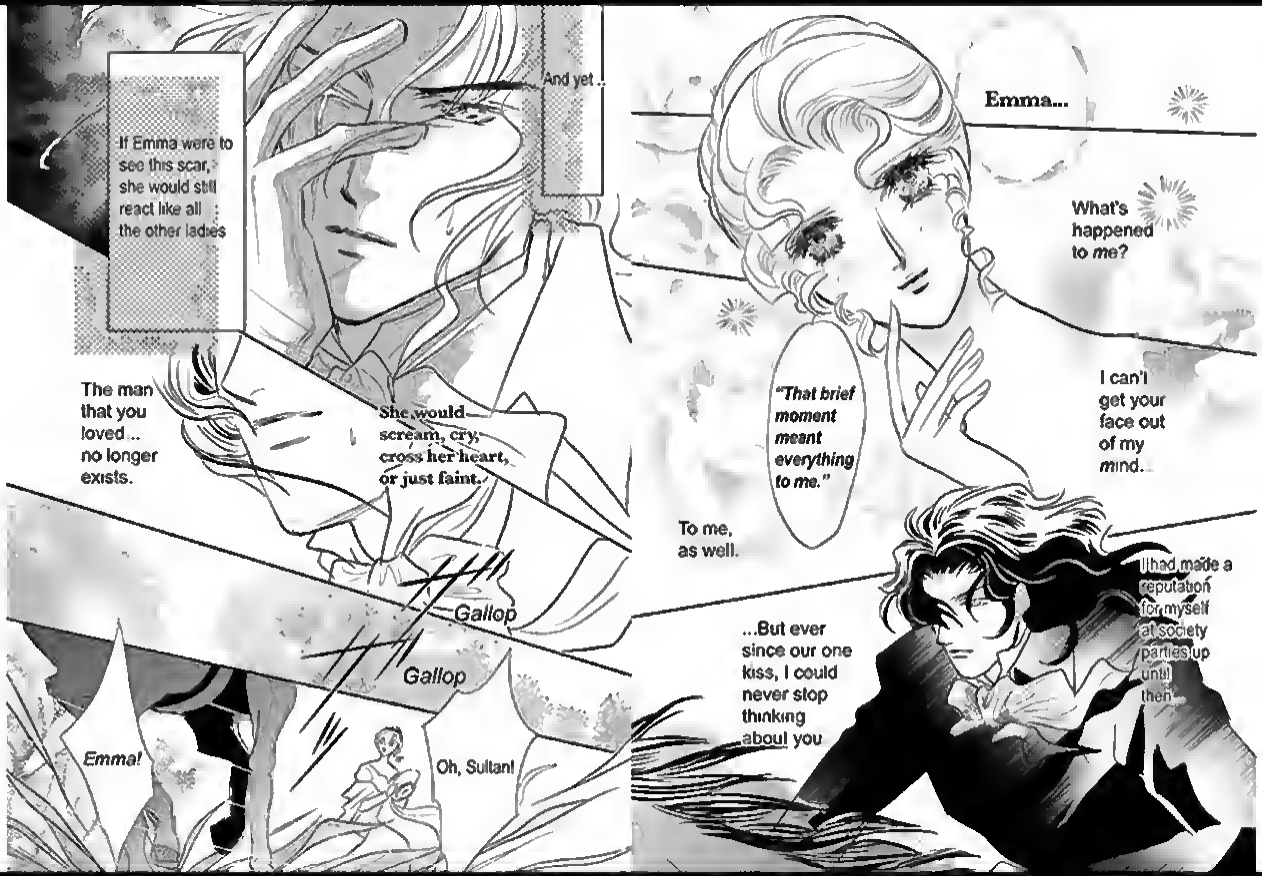

My one true love...
For some reason, being with the baron reminded me of that man.
It's ridiculous that I should come back here as if running away from that tiny woman.
...Still...
.. How strange...
Thump
Thump
Flash
Baron...
I...
Thump
What am I doing ..?
Excuse me.
Thump


Baron ..
Thump
"My room is right downstairs."
What ?
I thought that all of my passion had withered away years ago
Why would Baron Grayston, the lord of this castle..
..live in that old tower..?
..all by himself..?
Clack
Thump
I thought that I would never fall in love again.
Emma...
On that night...
...I parted with all of the shallow, happy beauty in my life...
...I even parted with your memory...
KPOW
BOOM
KPOW
Even on those hellish battlefields, I never once hesitated or felt fear.
And now, my steady heart is being stirred by the presence of that small, delicate woman?
Why am I being affected like this?

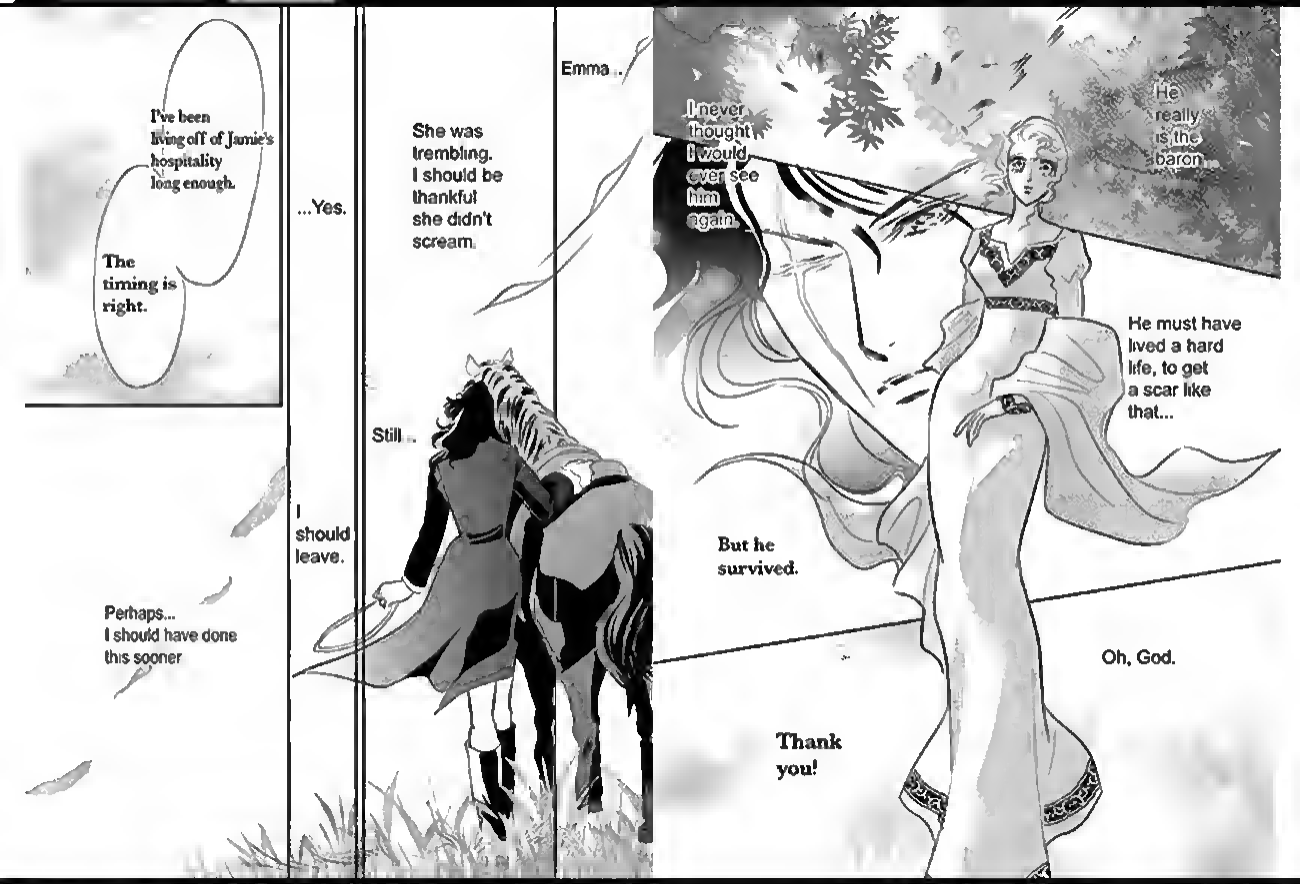

You've been distant since this morning, Emma. Are you all right?
!!
Sorry to have worried you. I'm fine.
What's the matter, Emma?
Then again .. If he wasn t ill, why would he be living almost hiding in that old tower?
I have to keep my head, or Jorgina will worry about me.
Thank you.
Oh.. Well, good. Don't exert yourself.
What?
And this is the current baron, Lord Alexander Grayston.
Rabble Rabble
These are portraits of the Grayston lords throughout history.
This is the first...
You'll be up there alongside them if Jamie becomes baron.
Rabble Rabble
They're wonderful!
He didn't seem ill at all.
That reminds me The baron I met last night..
!!

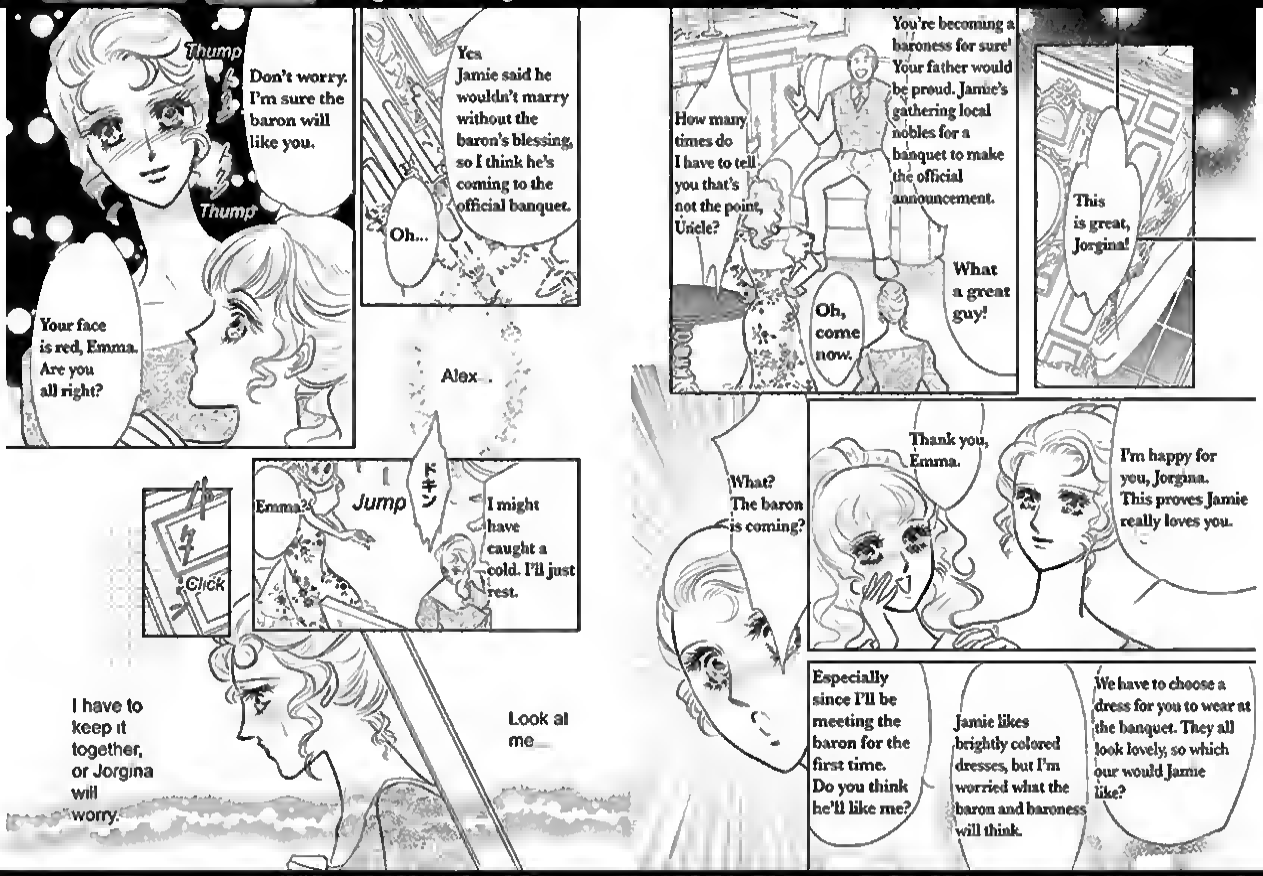

But. .
It must be...
Is it really you...?
Pant
How...
That's impossible...
!!

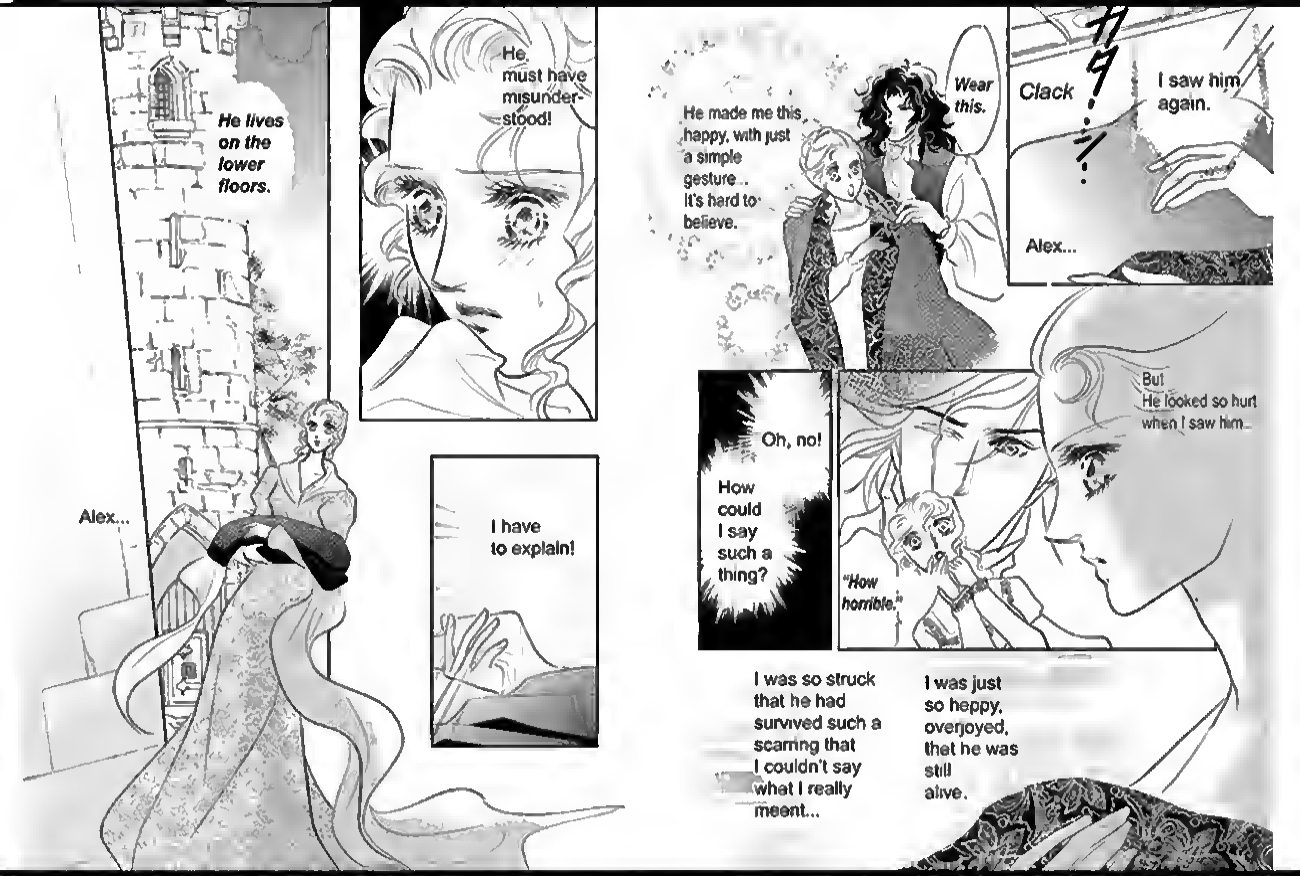
I've fallen in love with you twice, now.
"Mother is hosting a tea party today, so there won't be anyone outside around noon."
This feels fantastic. You're the best horse there is, Sultan.
I think I will...
Y-Yes...
You're acting so strange, Emma. You should excuse yourself from the baroness's tea party and rest in your room.
Thump Thump
Lord Alexander Grayston
Alex...

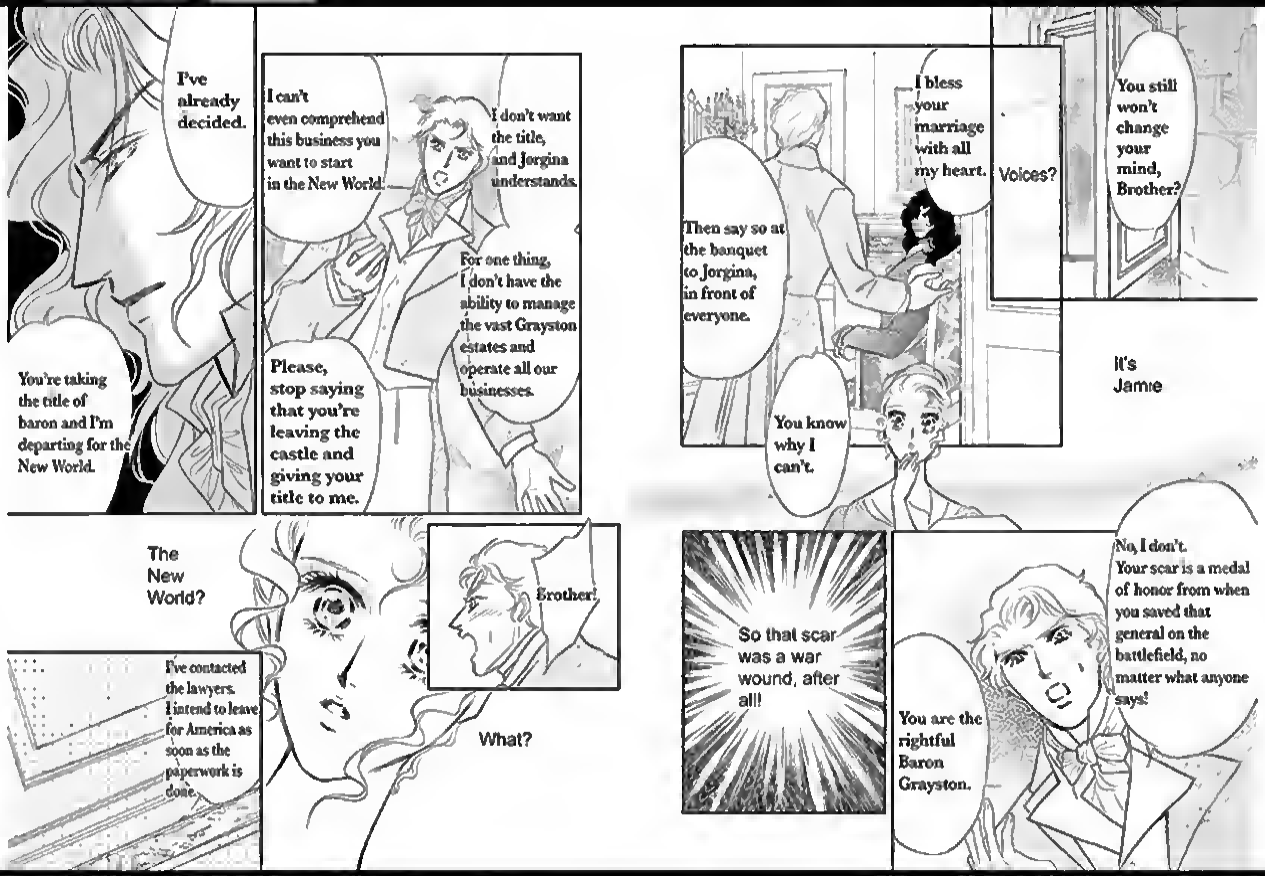

If Emma were to see this scar, she would still react like all the other ladies
And yet...
The man that you loved... no longer exists.
She would scream, cry, cross her heart, or just faint.
Gallop
Gallop
Emma!
Oh, Sultan!
Emma...
What's happened to me?
"That brief moment meant everything to me."
I can't get your face out of my mind...
To me, as well.
...But ever since our one kiss, I could never stop thinking about you
I had made a reputation for myself at society parties up until then...

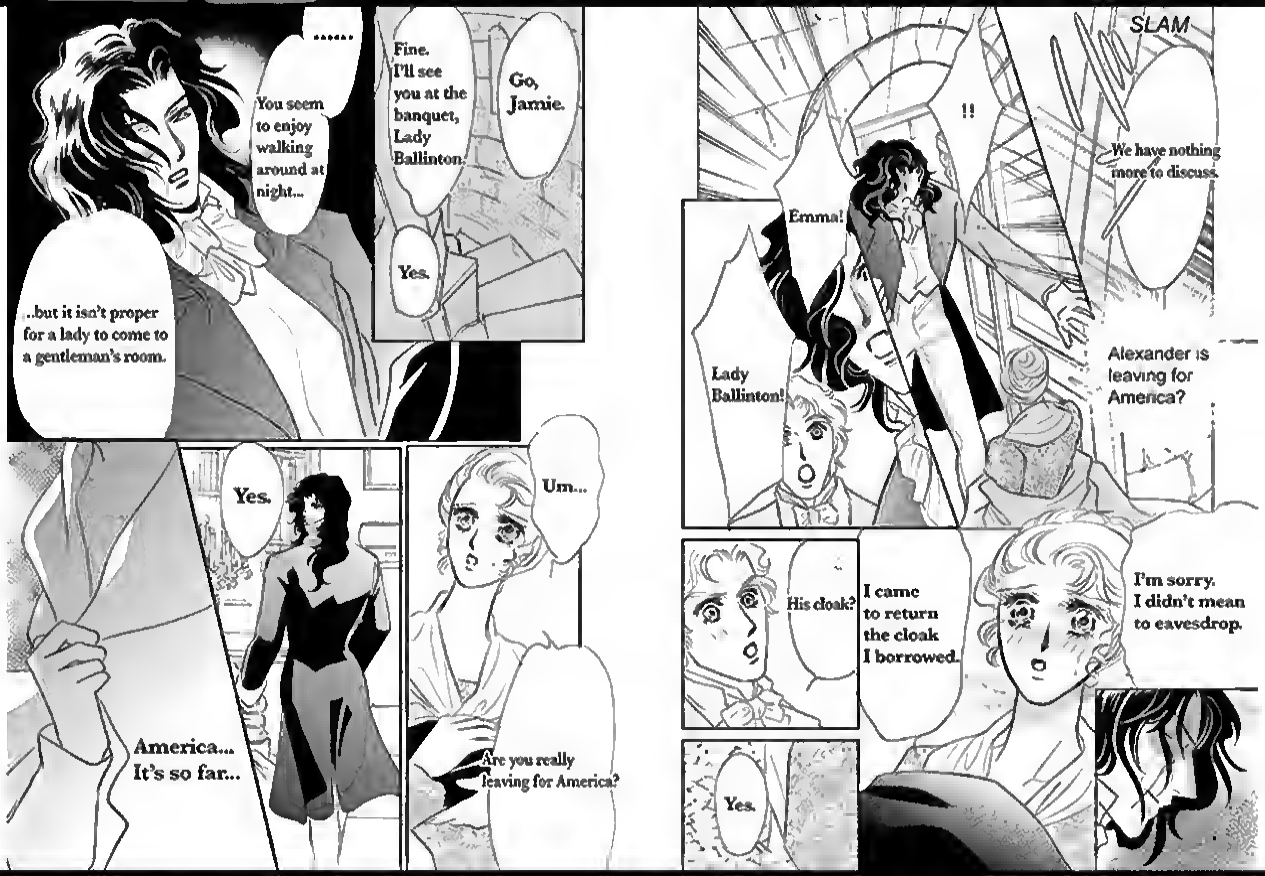
!!
Flop
H...
How... horrible...
Trot
What was I expecting?
Oh...
.....
Baron Grayston!
Fwoosh
!!


I've been living off of Jamie's hospitality long enough.
The timing is right.
...Yes.
I should leave.
Perhaps... I should have done this sooner
She was trembling. I should be thankful she didn't scream.
Emma..
Still..
I never thought I would ever see him again.
He really is the baron...
He must have lived a hard life, to get a scar like that...
But he survived.
Oh, God.
Thank you!

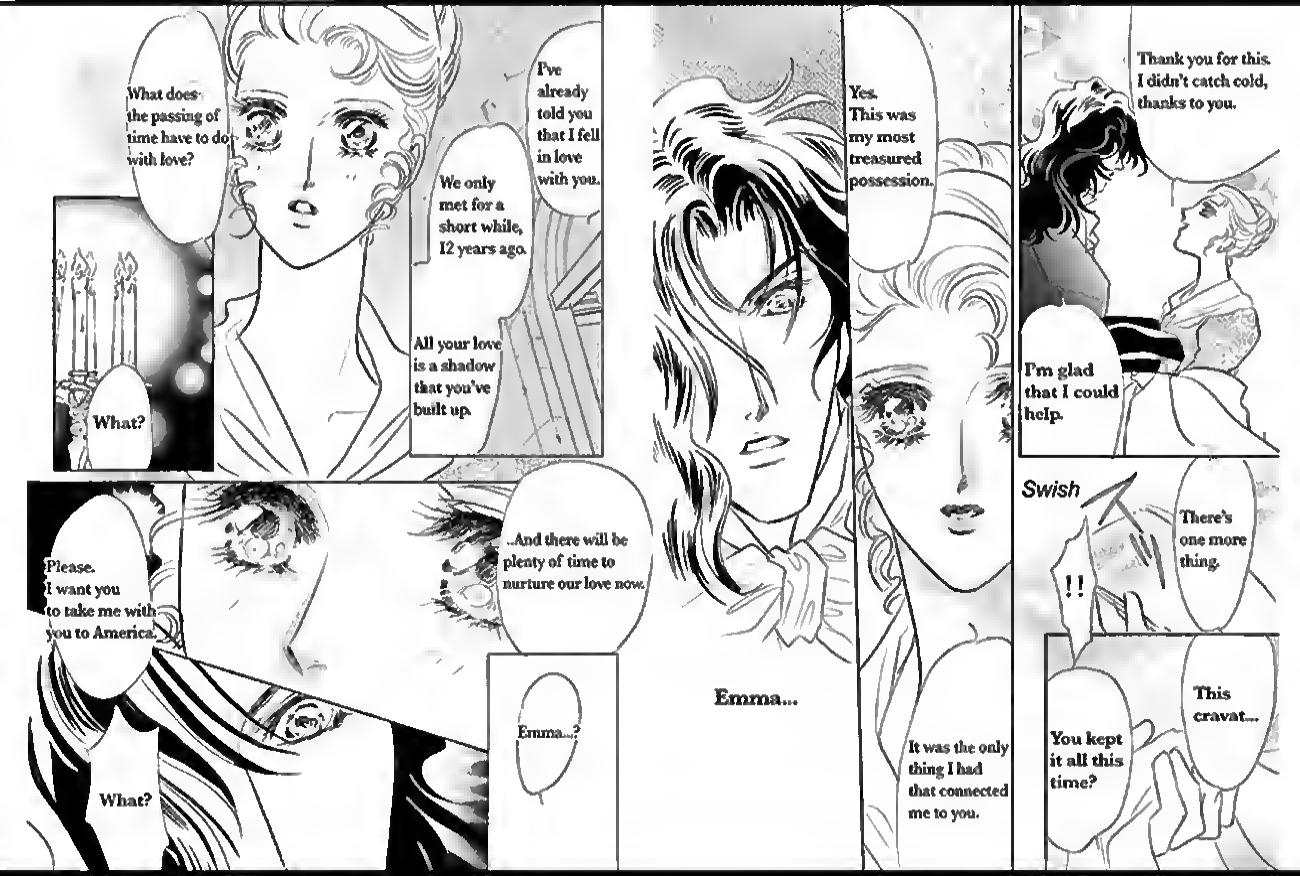

Thump
Thump
Don't worry. I'm sure the baron will like you.
Your face is red, Emma. Are you all right?
Yes
Jamie said he wouldn't marry without the baron's blessing, so I think he's coming to the official banquet.
Oh...
You're becoming a baroness for sure! Your father would be proud. Jamie's gathering local nobles for a banquet to make the official announcement.
How many times do I have to tell you that's not the point, Uncle?
Oh, come now.
What a great guy!
This is great, Jorgina!
Alex...
Emma?
Jump
ドキン
I might have caught a cold. I'll just rest.
Click
I have to keep it together, or Jorgina will worry.
Look at me...
What? The baron is coming?
Thank you, Emma.
I'm happy for you, Jorgina. This proves Jamie really loves you.
Especially since I'll be meeting the baron for the first time. Do you think he'll like me?
Jamie likes brightly colored dresses, but I'm worried what the baron and baroness will think.
We have to choose a dress for you to wear at the banquet. They all look lovely, so which our would Jamie like?

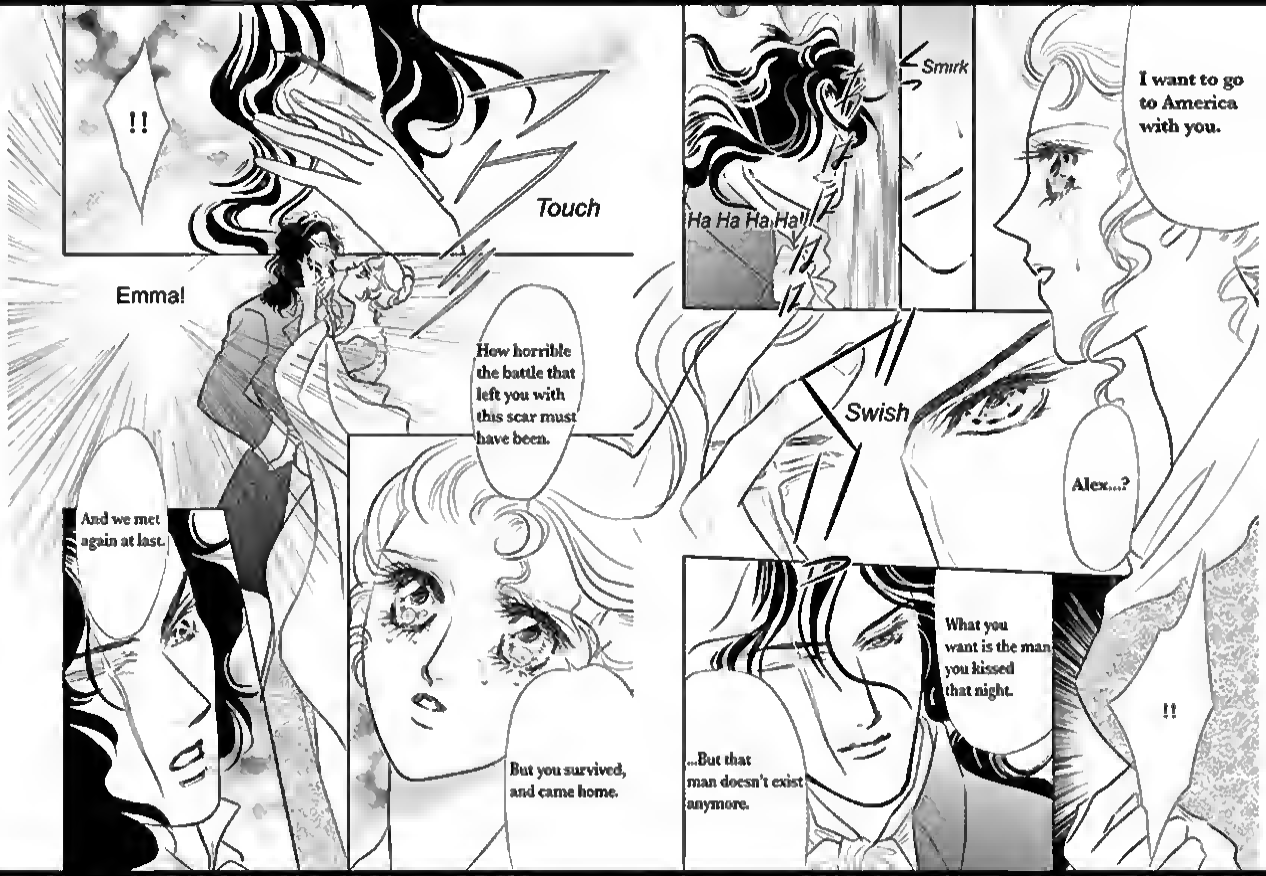

He lives on the lower floors.
Alex...
He must have misunderstood!
I have to explain!
He made me this happy, with just a simple gesture.. It's hard to believe.
Wear this.
Clack
I saw him again.
Alex...
Oh, no!
How could I say such a thing?
"How horrible."
But He looked so hurt when I saw him..
I was so struck that he had survived such a scarring that I couldn't say what I really meant...
I was just so heppy, overjoyed, thet he was still alive.

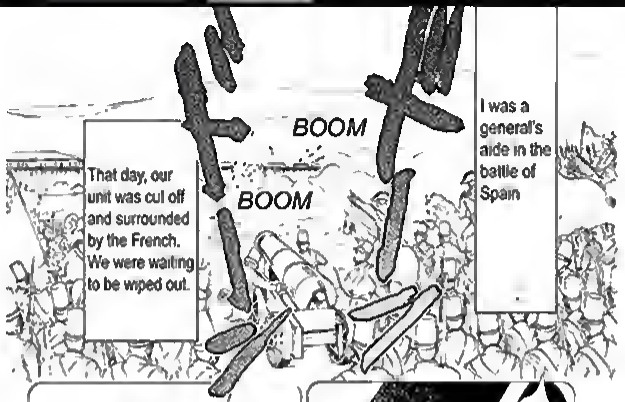

I've already decided.
You're taking the title of baron and I'm departing for the New World.
I can't even comprehend this business you want to start in the New World.
I don't want the title, and Jorgina understands.
For one thing, I don't have the ability to manage the vast Grayston estates and operate all our businesses.
Please, stop saying that you're leaving the castle and giving your title to me.
I bless your marriage with all my heart.
Voices?
You still won't change your mind, Brother?
Then say so at the banquet to Jorgina, in front of everyone.
You know why I can't.
It's Jamie
The New World?
Brother!
What?
I've contacted the lawyers. I intend to leave for America as soon as the paperwork is done.
So that scar was a war wound, after all!
No, I don't. Your scar is a medal of honor from when you saved that general on the battlefield, no matter what anyone says!
You are the rightful Baron Grayston.


.....
You seem to enjoy walking around at night...
..but it isn't proper for a lady to come to a gentleman's room.
Fine. I'll see you at the banquet, Lady Ballinton.
Go, Jamie.
Yes.
Yes.
America... It's so far...
Um...
Are you really leaving for America?
SLAM
!!
We have nothing more to discuss.
Emma!
Lady Ballinton!
Alexander is leaving for America?
His cloak?
I came to return the cloak I borrowed.
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to eavesdrop.
Yes.

Lend me your courage, Jorgina...
Squeeze
I couldn't follow you 12 years ago...
But now...
The little girl I thought I had to protect has become an adult in love.
Jorgina...
You grew up so fast, before I knew it.
Jamie will protect her.
The Thurman family is fine now...
Alex ..
Stab
Not ever.
Where I'll never see him again...
I finally found you, but you're leaving again.
This time, to somewhere I can never follow. .
Jorgina!
"If we can't get permission, we're going to get married in the New World."


What does the passing of time have to do with love?
What?
I've already told you that I fell in love with you.
We only met for a short while, 12 years ago.
All your love is a shadow that you've built up.
Please. I want you to take me with you to America.
What?
..And there will be plenty of time to nurture our love now.
Emma...?
Yes. This was my most treasured possession.
Emma...
It was the only thing I had that connected me to you.
Thank you for this. I didn't catch cold, thanks to you.
I'm glad that I could help.
Swish
!!
There's one more thing.
This cravat...
You kept it all this time?


!!
Touch
Emma!
Smirk
Ha Ha Ha Ha!!
I want to go to America with you.
Swish
Alex...?
How horrible the battle that left you with this scar must have been.
And we met again at last.
But you survived, and came home.
...But that man doesn't exist anymore.
What you want is the man you kissed that night.
!!


BOOM
BOOM
That day, our unit was cut off and surrounded by the French. We were waiting to be wiped out.
I was a general's aide in the battle of Spain

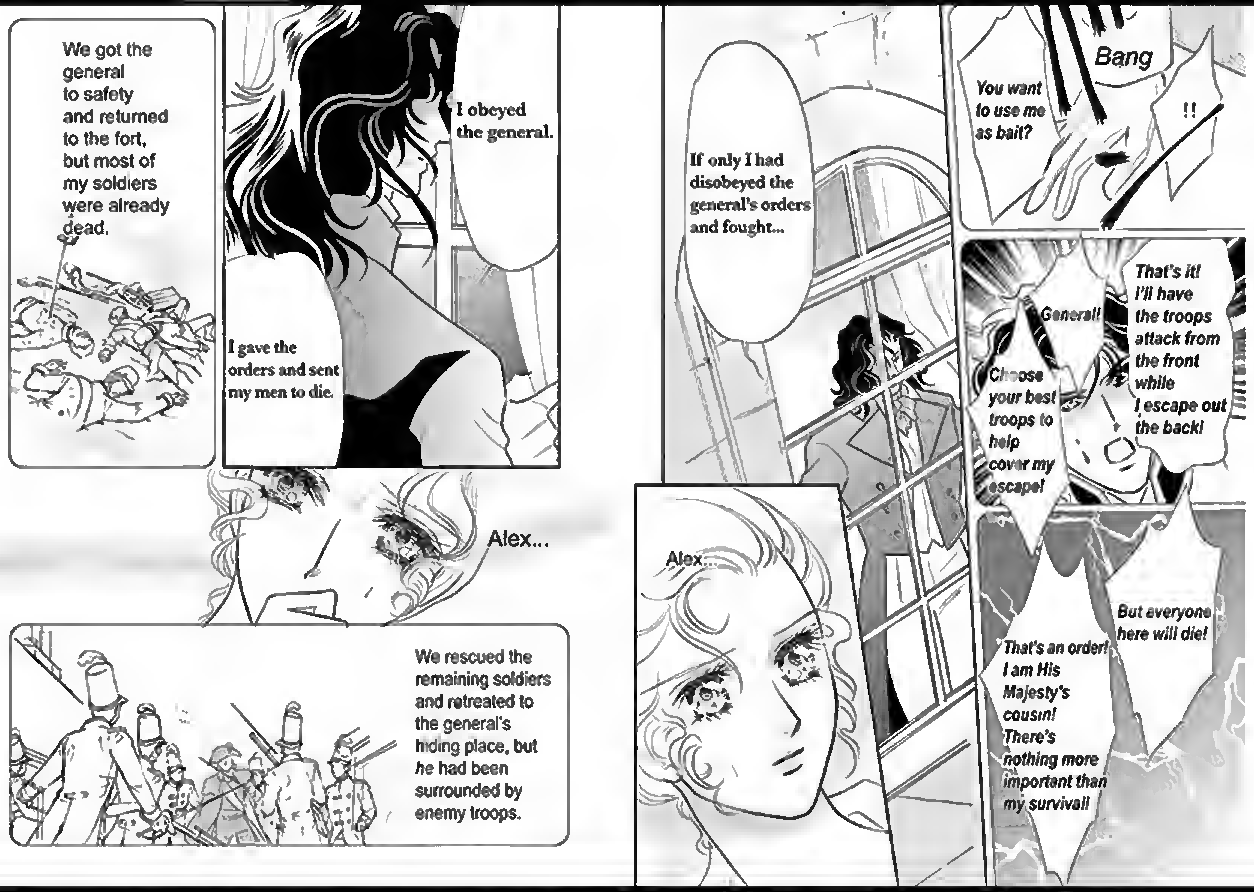
No. The rear wall only has a few Spanish troops at it.
If you stand at the front of the gates and distract them, General, I can take a battalion out through the back and flank the Spanish Army.

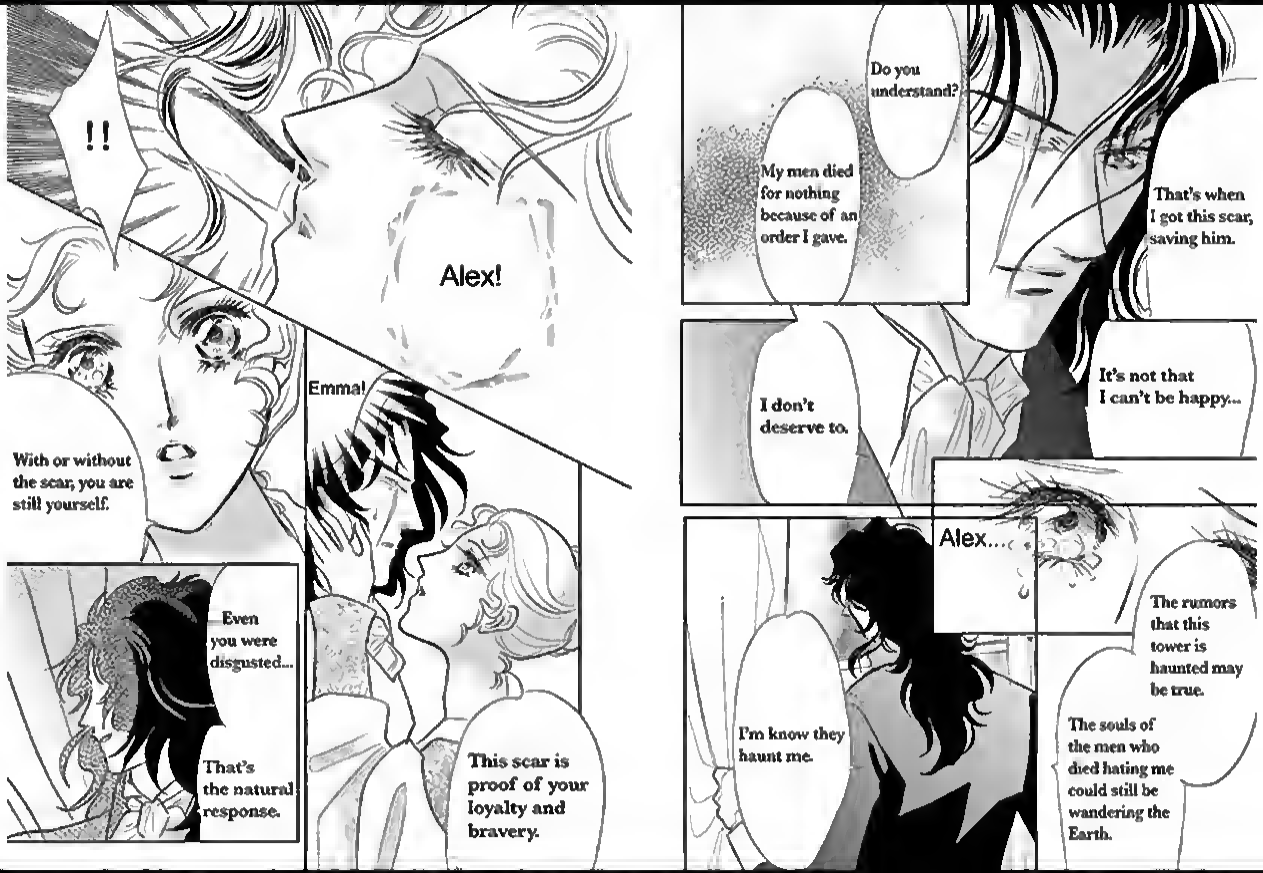
We're done for!

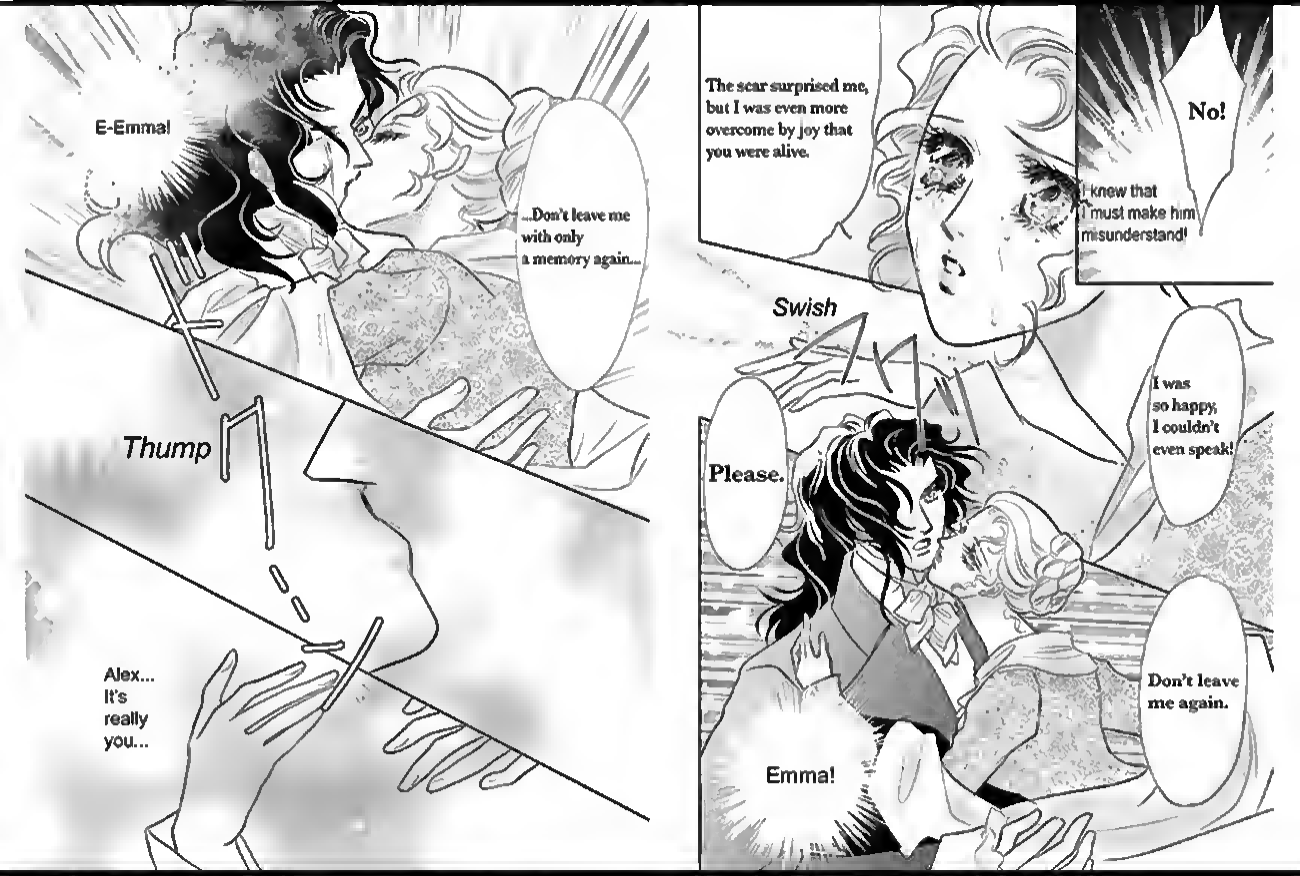
Not even an ant could get by the Spanish troops surrounding this fort!
We still have a strategy left, Sir.

Emma...
I thank God for watching over you.

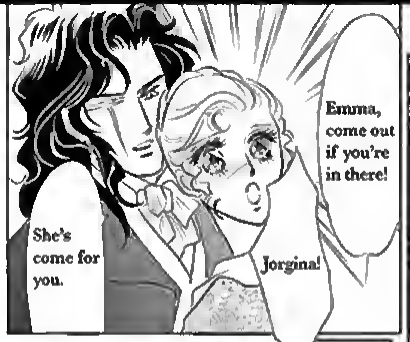
This is a constant reminder that I killed my own soldiers.
!!
It's an honorable scar. You should be proud of it.
This is no honorable scar.
What? But Jamie said...


We got the general to safety and returned to the fort, but most of my soldiers were already dead.
I obeyed the general.
I gave the orders and sent my men to die.
Alex...
We rescued the remaining soldiers and retreated to the general's hiding place, but he had been surrounded by enemy troops.
If only I had disobeyed the general's orders and fought...
Bang
You want to use me as bait?
!!
General!
That's it! I'll have the troops attack from the front while I escape out the back!
Choose your best troops to help cover my escape!
Alex...
But everyone here will die!
That's an order! I am His Majesty's cousin! There's nothing more important than my survival!


!!
Alex!
Emma!
With or without the scar, you are still yourself.
Even you were disgusted...
That's the natural response.
This scar is proof of your loyalty and bravery.
Do you understand?
My men died for nothing because of an order I gave.
That's when I got this scar, saving him.
It's not that I can't be happy...
I don't deserve to.
Alex...
The rumors that this tower is haunted may be true.
I'm know they haunt me.
The souls of the men who died hating me could still be wandering the Earth.


E-Emma!
...Don't leave me with only a memory again...
Thump
Alex... It's really you...
The scar surprised me, but I was even more overcome by joy that you were alive.
No!
I knew that I must make him misunderstand!
Swish
I was so happy, I couldn't even speak!
Please.
Don't leave me again.
Emma!

.....
Even paths that have separated can meet again!
The path didn't end!


Emma, come out if you're in there!
She's come for you.
Jorgina!

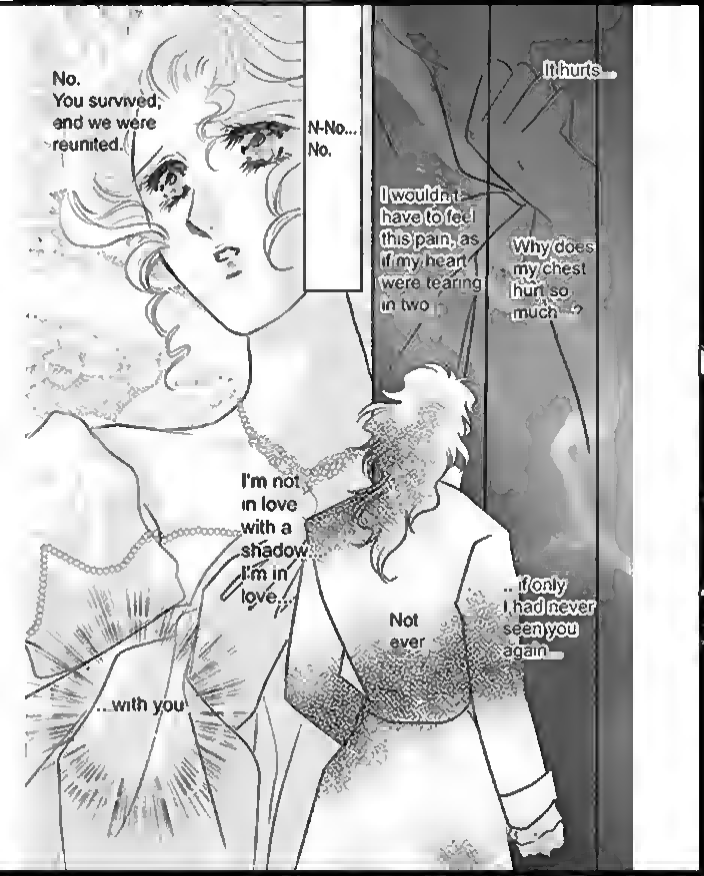
Emma!
Emma! It's time for the banquet.

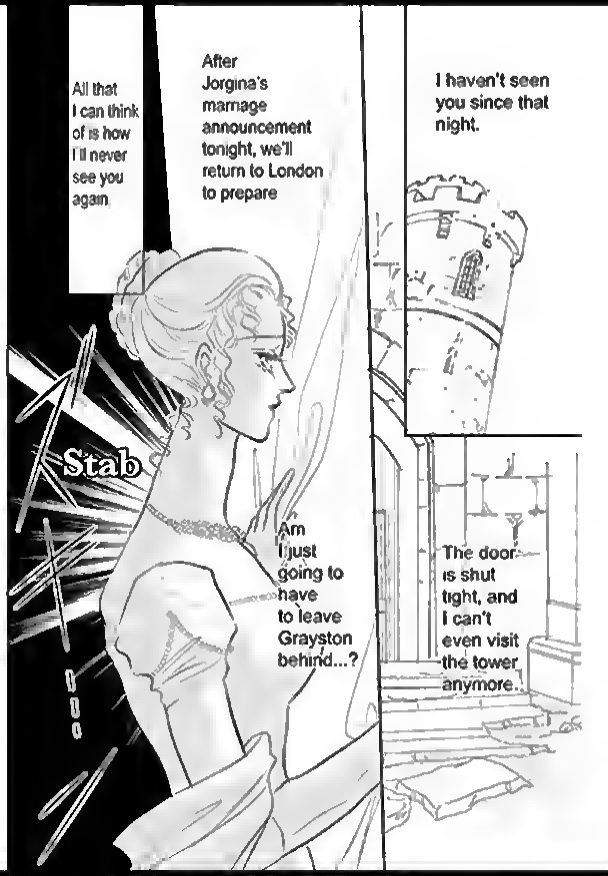
Our paths separated on that night.
Go home.
SLAM
Creak
Alex!

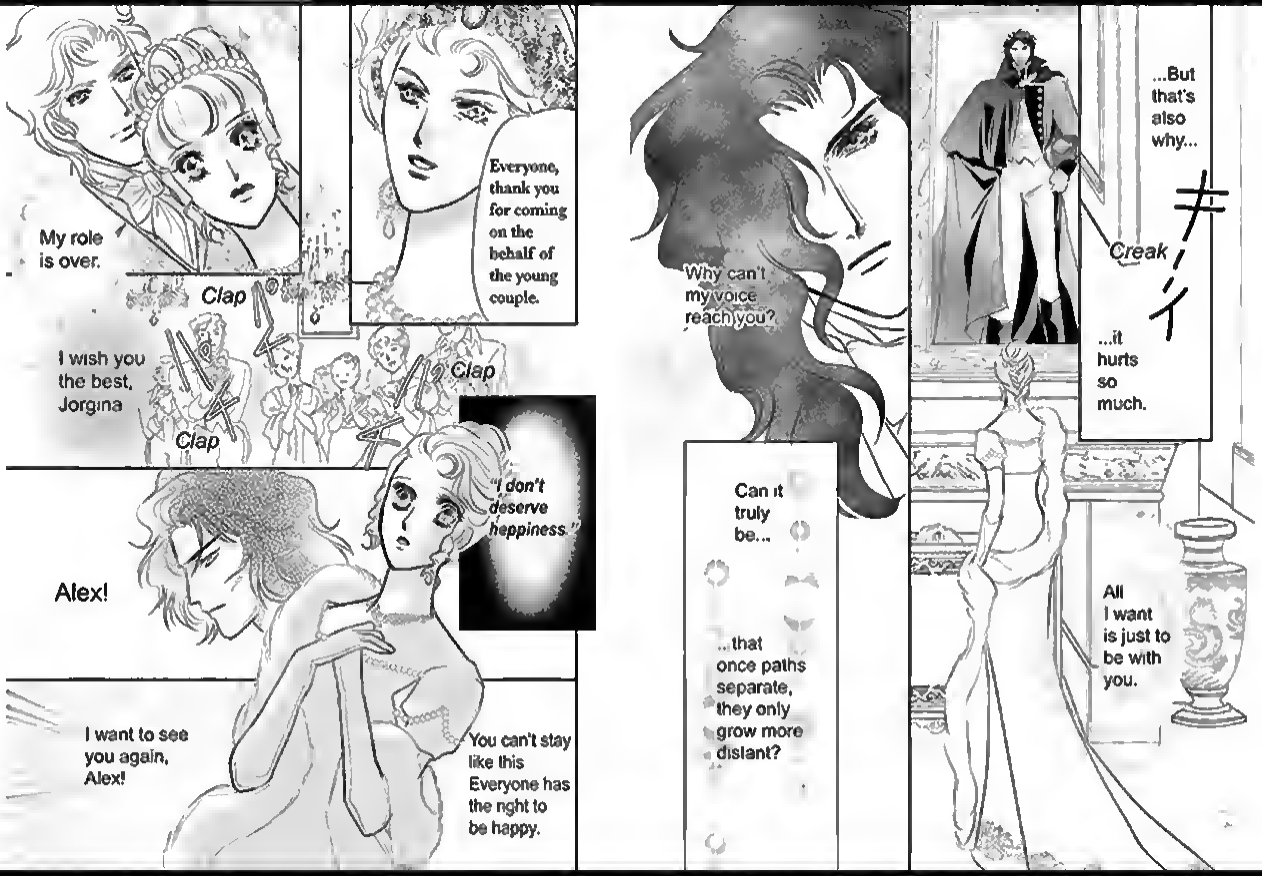
Jamie said Emma was at the tower, but it's so creepy...

Gulp...
Look at all the guests! I'm getting nervous.
Rabble
Rabble
Rabble
Oh, Emma.
You'll be fine. You look so beautiful, I doubt Jamie will be able to take his eyes off of you.
Alex...
.....

There you are, Emma.
Jorgina...
O-Of course...
We have to get ready. The baroness is strict about being late.
Alex...

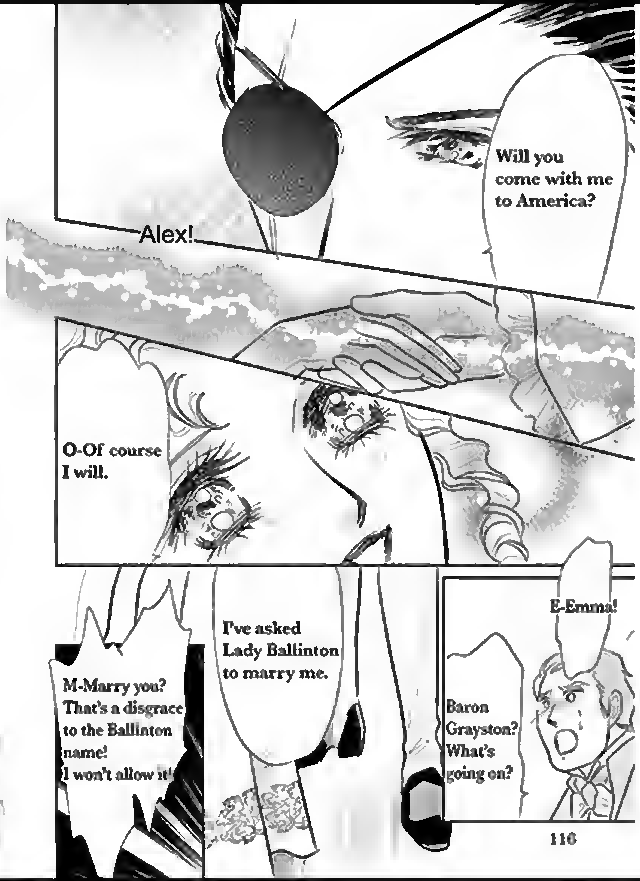

No.
You survived, and we were reunited.
N-No... No.
It hurts
I wouldn't have to feel this pain, as if my heart were tearing in two
Why does my chest hurt so much...?
I'm not in love with a shadow I'm in love...
Not ever
..with you
..If only I had never seen you again

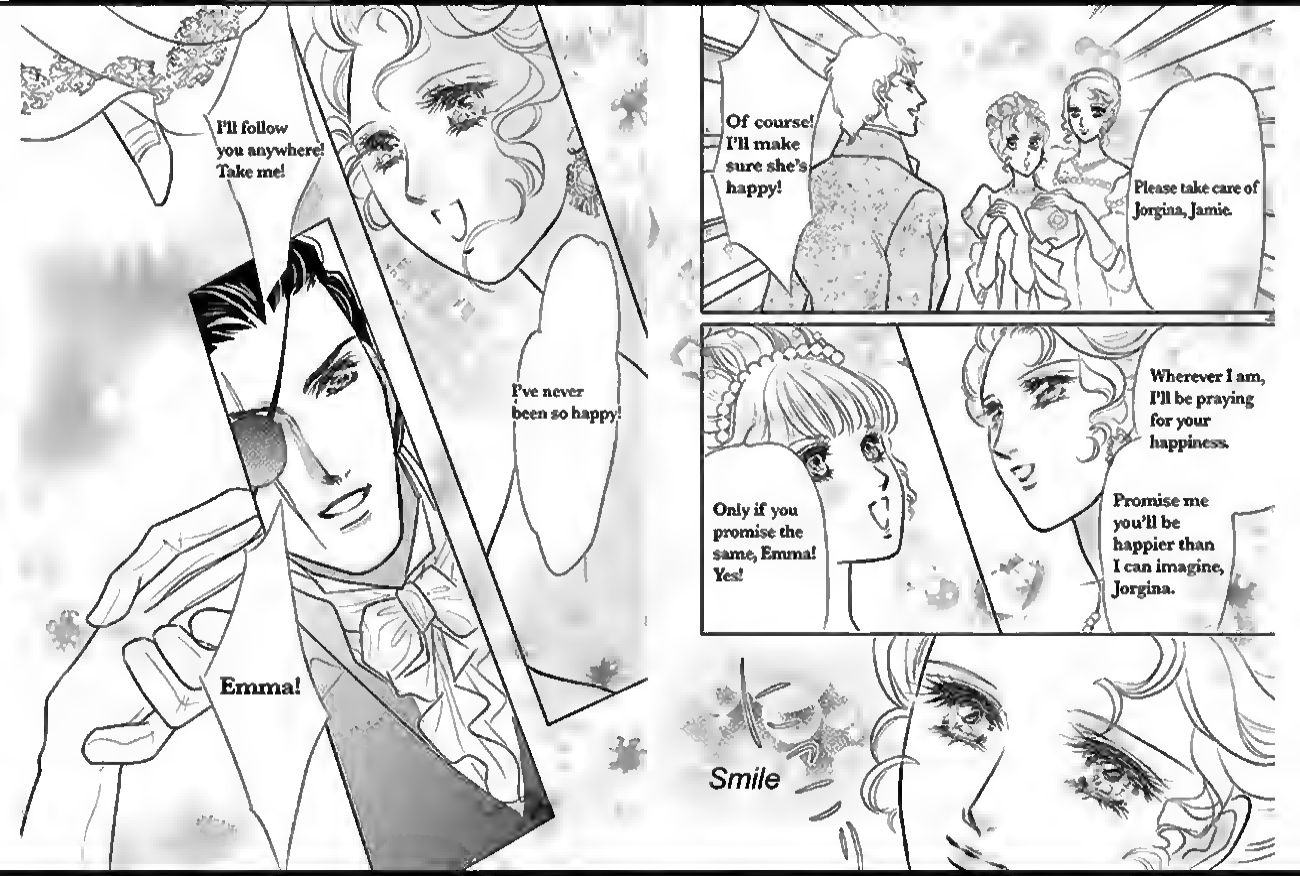

All that I can think of is how I'll never see you again
After Jorgina's marriage announcement tonight, we'll return to London to prepare
I haven't seen you since that night.
Stab
Am I just going to have to leave Grayston behind...?
The door is shut tight, and I can't even visit the tower anymore.


My role is over.
Everyone, thank you for coming on the behalf of the young couple.
Clap
Clap
Clap
I wish you the best, Jorgina
"I don't deserve heppiness."
Alex!
I want to see you again, Alex!
You can't stay like this Everyone has the right to be happy.
Why can't my voice reach you?
Can it truly be...
...that once paths separate, they only grow more distant?
Creak
...But that's also why...
...it hurts so much.
All I want is just to be with you.

It's an honor to meet you, Lord Baron.
Please look after Jamie, Jorgina.
Good for you, Jorgina.
Clap
I hope you young lovers find much happiness together.
Clap
Clap
And, Lady Ballinton.
What?
Does your offer still stand?
Alex?
Rabble
Creak
Ladies and gentlemen, on this joyous day...
There is someone I would like to introduce.
Rabble
Who is that?
This is the first time for me to address you. I am Baron Alexander Grayston.
!!
Oh my!
Alex!

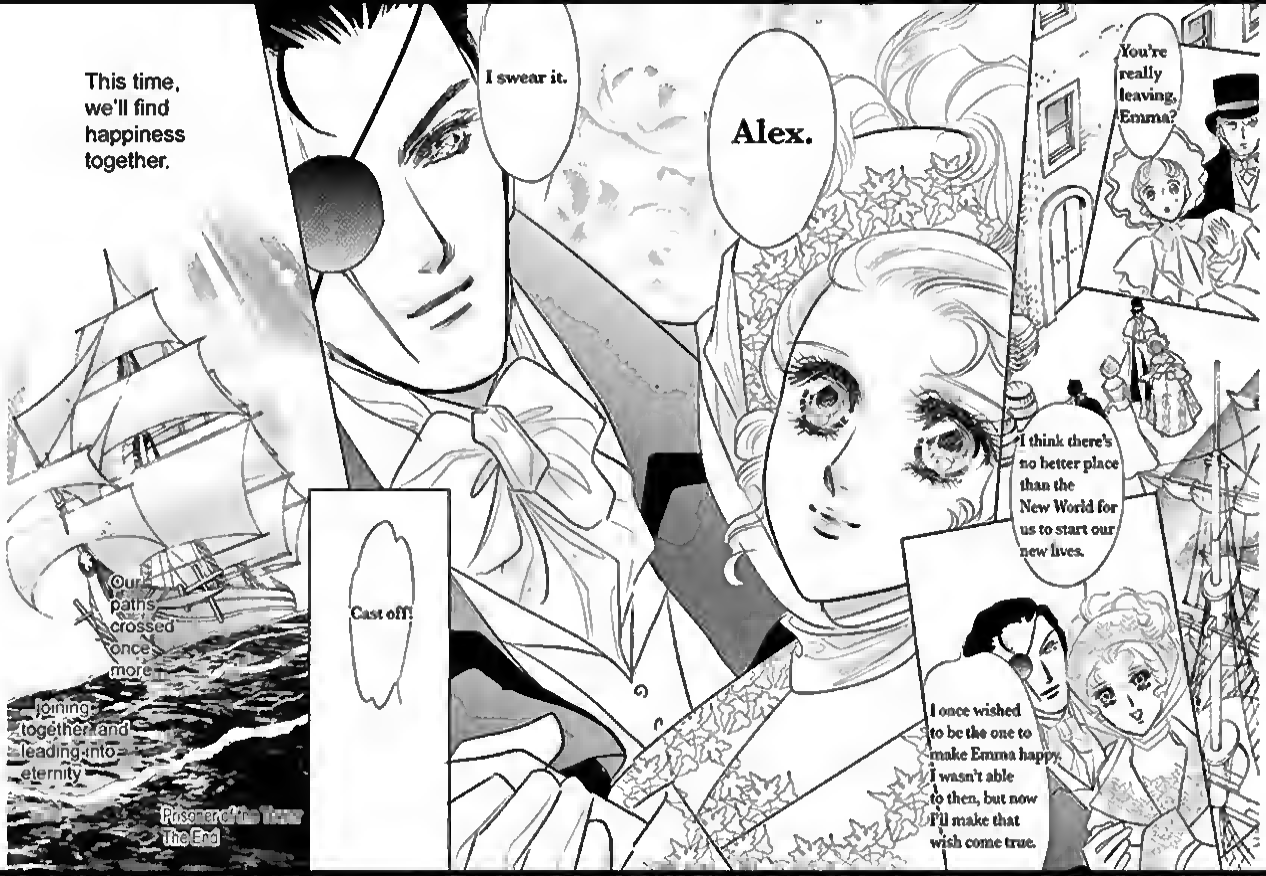
...You've been acting strangely since we came to Grayston Manor because of the baron?
Does that mean...
E-Emma...
I don't care what anyone says. I'm staying with Alex.
I'm sorry, Charles.
My dear Jorgina.
You have Jamie now.
You're leaving... for America, Emma?
You won't come live with us?
Yes.
He...
...He was the first man I ever loved. Now, he's the man I love more than any other.


Alex!
Will you come with me to America?
O-Of course I will.
M-Marry you? That's a disgrace to the Ballinton name! I won't allow it!
I've asked Lady Ballinton to marry me.
E-Emma!
Baron Grayston? What's going on?


I'll follow you anywhere! Take me!
I've never been so happy!
Emma!
Of course! I'll make sure she's happy!
Please take care of Jorgina, Jamie.
Only if you promise the same, Emma! Yes!
Wherever I am, I'll be praying for your happiness.
Promise me you'll be happier than I can imagine, Jorgina.
Smile

When you reappeared, you brought the light back into my life.
I was on the verge of spending the rest of my life living in darkness.
No. I've found the truth.
I love you, Emma.
Me, too..
I thought that my life was over.
I was going to disappear somewhere to live, with only your memory.
All of my dreams began here.
It's where I met you.
It holds so many memories.
That lodge...
Do you have any regrets?
Do you?

I love you with all my heart.
Alex.
I'll never leave you again.
And I'll never let you go.


This time, we'll find happiness together.
I swear it.
Alex.
You're really leaving, Emma?
I think there's no better place than the New World for us to start our new lives.
I once wished to be the one to make Emma happy. I wasn't able to then, but now I'll make that wish come true.
Cast off!
Our paths crossed once more
joining together and leading into eternity
Prisoner of the Tower
The End

Shojo Manhwa Scans

Prisoner of the Tower

Gayle Wilson

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